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COMPUTING & HIGH TECHSTATION  
NOT**Computer Companies**

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**New HP LaserJet 4:****Higher quality, better value**

HEWLETT-PACKARD have just released a new laser printer which offers power without the price. The new HP LaserJet 4 is a direct replacement for the HP LaserJet 3 printer, offering sharper images thanks to the use of 600-dpi (dots per inch) technology. In fact, the HP LaserJet 4 comes with true 600-dpi resolution, HP Resolution Enhancement Technology

(RET) and microfine toner designed specially to deliver sharper and clearer 600-dpi print quality (pictured below). The difference is immediately visible and what is really interesting is the price tag. HP have always been leaders in the field of laser printing, and printing in general, but the high asking prices for their products have always been as a complaint sounded by users, as was the case with the LaserJet

3. However, the new LaserJet 4 is very good value for money and within reach of many buyers interested in its superior printing capabilities.

HP LaserJet 4 comes standard with 2MB RAM and new compression algorithms that allow users to print all 300-dpi and most 600-dpi documents without adding memory. As for fonts, it comes with 35 Intelli-

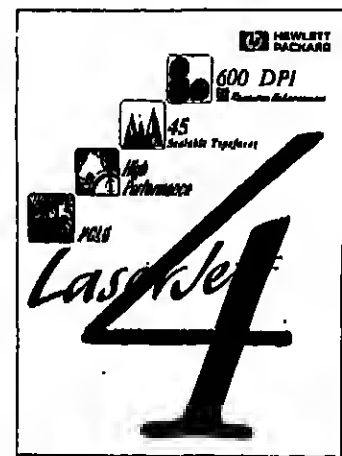
font typefaces and 10 TrueType typefaces built-in.

The HP LaserJet 4 has a standard dual-input tray with a 250-sheet input tray and a 100-sheet multi-purpose tray. There's also an optional 500-sheet input tray and 75-envelope power feeder. Options include a third tray that holds 500 sheets and a 75-envelope power feeder.

The LaserJet 4 incorporates a high-speed RISC processor enabling it to print eight pages per minute band — and that's quite fast.

There are two versions of the LaserJet 4, the Apple Macintosh version is the LaserJet 4M, which offers integrated Adobe Postscript Level 2 software, 6MB of standard memory and automatic language and interface switching for use in mixed computer envi-

ronments. The other version, the HP LaserJet 4, is for the PC, and offers 2MB internal memory as standard with up to 34MB, thanks to four optional 8MB SIMM slots. There is also optional switching between Adobe Postscript, Ethernet and Token Ring. Scientific & Medical Supplies Co. (SMS), official distributors of HP products in Jordan, have the printer in stock and are offering it at the rather competitive price of JD 2100 for the Macin-



tosh version. The PC version will cost less. These printers represent a new generation from HP, and with high performance and expandability on the one side and moderate prices on the other, HP look like they're onto another winner. ■

Z.N.

**At Ease for young Macintosh users**

AT EASE is the perfect solution for teachers, parents, and trainers who want to make Apple Macintosh computers even easier to use for young and novice users, while at the same time protecting the valuable contents of the computer's hard disk. As an extension to Macintosh System 7, At Ease provides speedy, one-click access to the applications and documents you specify, and protects remaining disk contents with a password.

You can install and set up At Ease in just a few minutes. After that, a single, simple click on At Ease's large buttons is all it takes to launch pre-selected applications or open documents. There's no need for beginners to search through desktop clutter to find files; young users don't need the

dexterity to manage small icons or pull down menus using the mouse.

Just as important, At Ease protects the remaining contents of the hard disk drive from unauthorized access. When you use the password option, for example, no one without the password can open, duplicate, rename, delete or move other applications, files, and folders, or change system settings. It's also much easier to maintain an orderly hard disk with At Ease, because its single document folder is readily accessible. In addition, you can lock hard disk contents so users are forced to save files on a floppy disk.

Another advantage is that At Ease actually saves memory. At Ease uses less memory than the

**INTERFACE**

BY ZEID NASSER

**The long arm of copyright**

IF YOU follow up on the latest slideshows, music demos and animation disks featuring your favorite actors and stars, then you might be disturbed to find out that this could be your last chance to enjoy owning and viewing such disks. Why? Because this "favorite" artist of yours has a right to sue you for the use of his/her image or music without permission.

To put it in simpler terms, let's suppose you are a fan of Arnold Schwarzenegger and you enjoyed his film *Total Recall*. Now, being a computer owner with a video digitizer and having a talent for putting together a slideshow (a series of pictures appearing in a determined sequence), then you'd probably create a demo disk, call it "Total Recall Demo" and start selling it on the Public Domain (PD) circuit. Right? Wrong, this could mean a lot of trouble if a law forbidding the use of an artist's images or music on computer disks without their permission goes into effect.

A big discussion is raging on this point in Britain, the US and most of Western Europe, since PD libraries are practically full of disks featuring sampled pop music, video and movie clips and even distorted images of actors, celebrities and politicians. One day you've got a hit movie, next thing you know somebody's offering a demo of it on disk.

"The media on which piracy occurs is irrelevant, just because it's a disk doesn't change anything," commented a speaker on behalf of recording artists. "Some of the disks actually include complete tracks and even re-mixes!" he added. A full copy of a song on the media of computer disks means "illegal profits" for the publisher and distributor.

Another angle is the poor quality with which the reproduction is made in some cases. Metallica, a heavy-metal band, could sound quite bad coming out of a computer speaker and Madonna could look very bad on a screen with low resolution. So, this affects the credibility of the artists involved by creating a far from perfect production to their name. That alone could let all hell loose.

Nowadays, many paint programs allow you to manipulate images. If you were to increase the size of Michael Jackson's nose and spread this modified image, knowing how much trouble he went to shrinking it, what would you expect other than to be sued and fined?

Software companies have a logical say about all this. According to them, a great deal of trouble goes into the negotiation of obtaining a license for a character or movie, then lots of money is spent on buying it in order to be able to use the name. It seems rather unfair for some "hobbyists" out there to make money out of just digitizing pictures and sounds of the same character or movie! Especially seeing as the artist is expected to gain something from the exposure, but doesn't because it's unlicensed.

An artist deserves to receive royalties for appearing in a digitized sequence. So if you're thinking of creating an animation of Bart Simpson and spreading it amongst your friends, why don't you give Bart a call first and ask him what he thinks? That's not all — even digitizing images from comics and magazines is supposedly illegal.

The multi-media revolution is making the line between computer/video/music equipment thinner every day and it's just a matter of time before other cross-copyright-impeachment cases emerge. Issues like these had better be settled without leaving computer users confused. It would really be a pity to take away the joy of listening to sampled music or speech while watching accompanying digitized pics. Don't you think that the arm of copyright is getting a little too long? Write in your views and tell our readers if any hot disks going around; let's enjoy it while it lasts! ■



A digitized picture from the movie "Wayne's World"

**The Star**

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة



Can the PLO survive the anti-peace drive within its ranks?



Le Jourdain  
Supplément en français du Star

Pages 24 & 25

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# JORDAN

## W E E K

An unconventional report on  
Jordanian news and views

■ Results of medical tests conducted on His Majesty King Hussein at St. Mary's Hospital in Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, have confirmed the complete success of the surgery the King underwent at the clinic two months ago, the King's doctor Sameer Farraj announced.

He told Petra news agency that no trace of cancerous cells was found and that King Hussein has made a complete recovery.

### Brothers differ over joining the cabinet

■ Two Muslim Brotherhood parliamentarians defended the movement's political involvement in the Jordanian democratic process, but differed on the Bloc's acceptance of government portfolios. Lower House deputy Dr. Muhammad Abu Faris told *Ad Dustour* this week that the role of the Islamic movement in political action became limited after it joined the government (of Mr. Mudar Badran in 1991). He said the movement became part of the government and was assigned to defend and justify its policies.

Dr. Abu Faris said deputies becoming government ministers limit their ability to make the government accountable. He added that the movement's decision to join the government was a breach of its program during the elections. "People elected (us) to be deputies, not ministers," he said.

Dr. Abu Faris, who is a professor of Islamic *Sharia* at the University of Jordan and a prominent leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in the Kingdom, said the Parties Law will have adverse effects on the political performance of the Islamic movement, referring to the movement's newly-launched party, the Islamic Action Front.

He said the movement was the main victim of the law although it had played a major role in limiting its effects on political activity in Jordan and in reducing government control over political parties.

He expected the Islamic movement to be subjected to "an organized and vicious campaign," but added that it will retain wide public support because of its Islamic program and honesty.

He said the movement did not take the 1989 elections seriously because "we thought (the elections) would not be fair...but we were surprised when most of our candidates won and we found ourselves the largest bloc in the House."

Another Muslim Brotherhood parliamentarian, Senator Dr. Isma'il Al-Farhan, told *Ad Dustour* that the Islamic movement "had a duty to participate in Parliament in order to contribute to legislation and to check the government (policies)."

Dr. Farhan, who is the general secretary of the Islamic Action Front, the movement's political party, said the application of



*Sharia* will come gradually through actual involvement. He said the Lower House has managed, since it was elected, to "harmonize" certain laws with Islamic *Sharia*. "Islamist deputies (contributed) to the corruption trials (at the Lower House)," Dr. Farhan said.

He said that the movement was divided over joining the cabinet. "Those who were against said that the system of (government) was not Islamic, while others found evidence that allows a Muslim to assume an executive office in a (non-Muslim) government."

Dr. Farhan said it was inconceivable for the Islamic Bloc, which enjoys considerable political weight, to limit its role to counseling and calling for reform. "Since (we have accepted) to join one branch of government...it becomes admissible to join the other branches," Dr. Farhan said.

He added that until 1989, the Islamic movement had had limited experience in political action, and admitted that the movement lacks "mature political thinking." He said that while the Islamic movement's performance has until now been modest, it has improved. "Our futuristic view must be based on the local, Arab and international inputs," he said.

Dr. Farhan said in the future, the movement's program must emphasize national unity, democracy, freedoms, attention to economic and social issues, resistance of the Zionists and Arab unity.

### 1 m. Jordanians without medical insurance

■ More than one million Jordanians have no medical insurance whatsoever, according to *Ad Dustour* columnist Ahmad Shaker. He wrote this week that 2.5 million Jordanians have some sort of medical coverage through the Ministry of Health, Royal Medical Services, UNRWA, Social Security and the private sector.

He called on the government to give priority to providing every Jordanian with medical attention. Those who can't afford to pay medical bills, Mr. Shaker said, should be helped by various charitable funds. But he said the time has come to create a national medical insurance corporation.

### Deputies look for a place they can call home

■ Deputies are still looking for a building to use as a temporary office to receive the public. Lower House Speaker Dr. Abdel Latif Arabiyat has formed a committee to hunt down a suitable location. There are plans to build a permanent office building close to Parliament. Attempts to buy out the Housing Bank building, which is adjacent to Parliament have been shelved. Instead, deputies are eyeing the Social Security Corp. building located in Shmeisani. The government has agreed to pay the rent.

### ...and the AFM gets the green light for a place of its own

■ A new permanent home for the Amman Financial Market (AFM) has received approval from the cabinet. The proposed AFM will be located in Shmeisani. AFM will depart from its present rented premises to an eight-story complex by 1995. The new AFM facilities will occupy about 15,000 square meters, AFM-Director Mr. Umayyeh Toukan said. A tender for AFM building designs will go on the market soon. "AFM expansion plans reflect confidence in our economic future," said Mr. Toukan. Repatriated monies from GCC countries and confidence in the economy have had a profound effect on the volume of trading.

### Masri calls for rebuilding middle class

■ Former Prime Minister Mr. Taher Al Masri has said that the Jordanian democratic experiment is facing "undeclared resistance from many (people) around us." In a lecture delivered Sunday at the Orthodox Club, the Amman deputy said Jordan must face the internal as well as the external challenges. Among the challenges, Deputy Masri said, were lack of natural resources, its geographical location and the Palestinian problem in addition to the "battle of peace."

He added that one of the most major responsibilities of the government is to fight poverty and rebuild the middle class, which suffered after the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in 1988. Mr. Masri said the social and economic imbalances began before 1988 and that the gap between the rich and poor in Jordan is widening at a faster rate today.

Mr. Masri said repositioning the civil services can only be achieved by stretching the base of economic development through long-term planning. He said Jordanians should bank on their local resources and turn the country into a "unique center capable of opening new horizons." He said Jordanian democracy must not be limited to going to the polls and to politics, but



should include the democracy of legislation, education and development.

Mr. Masri said there is "an international consensus to end the Arab-Israeli conflict." New regional circumstances will be created and a close unity between Jordan and Palestine will develop even before the end of the interim period for the Occupied Territories, he added. "Facing these challenges, requires suitable change and change should not scare us...we should combine heritage and development in order to make positive change."

### A \$36 m. soft loan from Italy

■ A protocol was signed between Jordan and Italy this week. The protocol provides for the allocation of approximately \$35 million (46 billion Italian liras) as a soft loan to finance Jordanian imports from Italy.

The loan will be paid in 36 installments starting after 150 months at an annual interest rate of one percent. Companies planning to import from Italy will benefit from this program. The Central Bank of Jordan will seek confirmation and approval of the relevant disbursements from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Israel's settlement plan failed, Peace Now says

■ Israel's Peace Now movement has issued a report on the geography and demography of the West Bank and Gaza Strip's populations, in which it asserted that Israel's project of settling the Occupied Areas has failed after more than 15 years of intensive settlement activities under the Likud governments.

The report said that since 1967 Israel had spent more than 15 billion shekels, but Jewish settlers make up only 6 percent of the population of these territories today. The report said that Israel follows a policy of discrimination when it comes to providing services to Palestinians and settlers in the areas. It said that for every 17 building licenses issued to Jews in Gaza one was issued to an Arab, while the rate was one to seven in the West Bank in favor of Israelis.

Commenting on Israel's policy of land expropriation, the report said Israel now controls over 60 percent of land in the Occupied Territories. It added that one quarter of Israel's domestic water resources now comes from the West Bank, with settlers receiving seven times the amount that Israel allocates to Palestinians.

The report estimated that the total population of the Occupied Territories, including Jerusalem, will reach 1.9 million by the end of the year, and expects the number to reach more than 2 million

by the end of 1993. It said the Palestinian population grew by 9 percent in 1991 because of reverse migration on the part of Palestinians.

### Jordan to try two Iraqis over Jabal Hussein killing

■ Two Iraqis arrested in charges of killing an Iraqi nuclear scientist last week will be put on trial, sources have announced. One of the killers is an Iraqi with diplomatic papers, *The Star* has learned. Sources said the Iraqi intelligence were behind the murder of Mr. Munyund Janabi, who was shot in Jabal Hussein as he was walking with his wife and children.

Mr. Janabi was on holiday in Jordan, but failed to return to Iraq after his leave had expired. He was reported to have been seeking a visa for the United States, Libya or Tunis. He was working for the Iraqi Nuclear Agency Commission. The killing has marred Jordan-Iraqi relations. Thousands of Iraqis residing in Jordan expressed dismay and fear for their safety. The dead man's wife, Wafiq, and her two children were given permanent residency in Jordan and are said to be under tight security.

An official at the Iraqi embassy in Jordan said the Israeli Mossad was behind the assassination.

### Editor lashes out at new press law

■ *Al Rai* newspaper Chief Editor Mr. Mahmoud Al-Kayed wrote in his paper's Sunday edition that if both houses of Parliament endorse the Press and Publications draft law without amendment, the new law will be more backward than all previous laws. He objects to a number of articles in the draft law, including article 42, which prohibits publishing news, comments or cartoons relating to the armed forces or public security departments. He said the law is vague and can have many interpretations. He also criticized article 47, which prohibits journalists from receiving money from foreign parties.

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## Palestinian opposition groups unite to derail the peace process

THE KILLING by Hamas activists Tuesday of a kidnapped Israeli soldier has prompted Israel to launch a vicious campaign of mass arrests among Palestinians in addition to ordering a state of siege over the whole of the Occupied Territories.

The current crisis comes in the wake of a dangerous escalation of violence in the West Bank and Gaza between Israeli forces and Palestinian protesters in which scores of Palestinians were shot dead and hundreds were injured. The present tension is expected to affect the course of peace talks in Washington, but more importantly it puts the prospects of a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Palestinian in doubt. More in this survey published this week by *The Jerusalem Post*:

One year after the first round of Middle East peace talks in Madrid, Palestinian opposition groups have stepped up actions to boycott the talks.

In an attempted show of force, secular radical Palestinian parties, Islamists, pro-Syrian and pro-Iraqi Palestinian groups have formed a loose coalition to confront "the coming disaster" — autonomy. A leaflet signed in Damascus a month ago by 10 Palestinian parties was the first written agreement by this coalition of old groups with totally opposing ideologies and alliances.

"The only thing we have in common is our opposition to the peace talks," insists Riyad Al Malki, a spokesman for George Habash's PFLP in the Occupied Territories.

"This show of force is necessary to create an impression of strength. The stronger the opposition looks, the more influence it can exert on the negotiators and the PLO leadership," Al-Malki says.

That view is shared by Nablus businessman Subhi Annabiwee, a prominent figure in the Islamic Trend, another term for Hamas.

Annabiwee says that all opposition groups, religious and secular alike, must join forces despite their ideological differences "to convince the PLO leaders to stop their nonsense."

He insists that Hamas is the most effective opposition group in the territories.

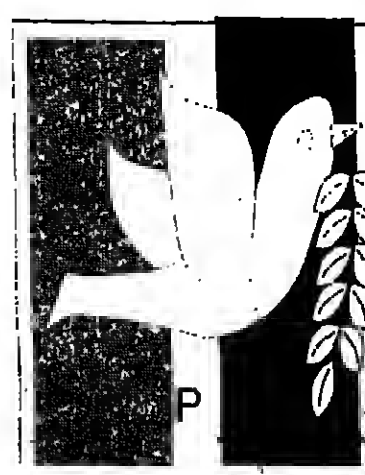
Another known Hamas activist from Nablus, Said Bilal, claims that Hamas is the only "real opposition."

"These secular PLO factions like the PFLP and DFLP (Naef Hawatmeh's Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) will agree to any deal the Palestinian delegates reach with the Israelis, if Arafat grants them more power. All they want is a greater say within the PLO."

Al Malki denies that charge, claiming that the PFLP has, in fact, radicalized its position over the past two months.

"We no longer want to adjust the peace talks; we now want to boycott them altogether, just like Hamas. But Hamas can do more because they receive political and financial backing from Iran."

Bilal claims he has no knowledge of such support. He accuses the PLO of trying to discredit Hamas in the territories, since Shiite Iran has a bad reputation in the



Sunni Muslim Arab World.

Annabiwee admits that Iran has promised to support Hamas. "Iran and Hamas have identical views with regard to the Palestinian problem, and may form a strong common front against the destruction of the Palestinian cause," he says.

During the last two months, all opposition groups have become more active. According to Al Malki, the PFLP and DFLP have formed a united leadership to confront autonomy.

"Together we have formed Return Committees in countries where there are refugee camps — like Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — to lobby for the Palestinians' right of return. We also organized a huge anti-peace-talks rally in

the Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus on 28 October. All opposition groups took part in the demonstration."

Allowing Palestinian opposition groups to demonstrate in Damascus would indicate that Syria indirectly backs the Palestinian opposition to the peace talks, while at the same time negotiating a separate deal with Israel.

Al Malki agrees that Syria is using the Palestinian opposition to put pressure on Israel for its own purposes.

"Today the Syrians find it useful to let us demonstrate against the peace process; tomorrow when they are about to strike a deal with Israel, they may ban us," he says.

Ali Abu Hilal, the DFLP spokesman in the Occupied Territories, is more cautious. "Syria hasn't sold out the Palestinian cause yet. So far, they have said that they would not negotiate a separate deal with Israel."

The Palestinian opposition has no definite plan yet of how to fight autonomy, but it will start operating "Freedom and Independence Committees" throughout the Occupied Territories to mobilize the population against autonomy and the peace negotiations.

Hamas has not yet said that it will participate with the movement took part in a recent meeting.

"Our only agenda will be how to confront autonomy," Al Malki says. He suggests agitation and mass demonstrations as possible means of confrontation — "peaceful demonstrations," he adds. Ali Abu Hilal does not accept the argument that, after five years of *Intifada*, the Palestinian people are worn out.

Contrary to the PFLP, Abu Hilal is not opposed to the peace negotiations. He does oppose the conditions under which the talks are taking place.

"We would accept autonomy as an interim stage, if we would get some guarantees that it will lead to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with Jerusalem as its capital."

The DFLP spokesman fears that Syria and Jordan will sign a separate deal with Israel and that the Palestinians will get stuck with an autonomy deal as a permanent solution.

The odd coalition indicates that there is a serious split within the PLO. Although all PLO groups have the same aim — a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital — the PFLP and DFLP prefer to form a temporary alliance with Hamas instead of Yasser Arafat's *Fatah*.

Their opposition to the peace process is mostly a rebellion against *Fatah's* dominance within the PLO and the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

Abu Hilal blames Arafat for the split inside the PLO. "Arafat must learn to establish unity between the different PLO factors by democratic means," he says.

Despite their efforts to join forces in order to confront the peace talks, the differences between the opposition groups are already apparent, especially on the subject of general elections.

Hamas, for example, has so far

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## Pope will visit Jerusalem if 'just peace' is achieved, says delegate to Vatican

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to The Star

DESPITE THE fact that the Middle East peace talks have kept the Vatican on the sidelines as a remote observer, last month three parties to the peace talks — the Palestinians, the Israelis and the Jordanians — paid a visit to the Vatican, calling for its practical involvement in the Middle East conflict.

Following Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' visit at the end of November, Jordanian delegate Dr Taisir Amari travelled to Rome, accompanied by parliament member Issa Rimony and Ahmad Alawi, a journalist. All were received by His Holiness Pope John Paul II and the Vatican Foreign Minister.

The visit was purely of a private nature and was Dr Amari's second meeting with Pope John Paul; their first meeting being two days before the outbreak of the Gulf War. Dr Amari was then head of a Jordanian delegation which had been assigned to discuss the Gulf crisis with the Vatican.

This time the delegates took with them a five-point agenda for discussion. Its items included the invitation by Peres for the Pope to visit Jerusalem to discuss the holy sites; the application of resolution 242 with special emphasis on the status of Jerusalem; the problem of Christian emigration from Jerusalem; the Palestinian problem and ways towards its solution and Jordanian interest in a role for the Vatican in the peace process.

Dr Amari stressed in a statement to the Vatican that the Jordanian people have deep concern for the future of Jerusalem. He referred to the adherence of Jordan's Christians and Muslims to the implementation of the seventh-century agreement made between Caliph Omar ibn al-Khattab and the Patriarch Sophronius, giving Muslims and Christians the right to practice their religions freely and to give full protection to Jerusalem's holy sites.

Dr Amari said that his address to the Pope was received with great interest and concern. "The Pope is an extraordinary listen-



Jordanian delegate to the Vatican Dr Amari presents Pope John Paul II with a piece of Jerash pottery

er," he said. "Before we started our conversation, His Holiness asked after His Majesty King Hussein's health. He emphasized the special regard given by the Vatican to King Hussein as a great leader with a visionary mind and far-reaching clairvoyance. He also paid tribute to His Majesty's efforts in contributing to the peace process and to solving the Palestinian problem."

In discussing Jordan, Dr Amari said that the Pope described Jordan as "a unique example in the world, as a country where Muslims and Christians live together, respecting and backing each other on their way towards prosperity and national unity."

Commenting on Peres' visit to the Vatican and his invitation to visit Jerusalem, Pope John Paul said that he is ready to pay a private visit to Jerusalem, but that it will be largely dependent on the outcome of the peace talks and the achievement of a "just peace." He described the elements of a "just peace" as including essential human rights for the Palestinian people and for the citizens of other nations party to the peace talks, putting an end to the forcing of Christians from the

city of Jerusalem, providing guarantees that all religions be free to practise their faiths and a promise of protection for the historical objects and topographical profile of Jerusalem.

"Apparently Israel is intending to establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican," said Dr Amari. "The Vatican is moving slowly and cautiously; they have accepted to establish a bilateral committee with Israel, which I personally admit is a success in itself. However this does not mean that the Vatican is ready to give Israel concessions over the progress of the peace process."

Dr Amari suggested that Jordan should abide in its efforts to establish a parallel Vatican-Jordanian committee, which will be entitled to defend the Jordanian and Arab World position concerning Jerusalem and its holy sites. He also said that he invited His Holiness to visit Amman while on pilgrimage; an offer that he claims was gladly accepted.

After meeting with the Pope, Dr Amari and his colleagues offered two examples of ancient Jerash pottery as a gift to His Holiness and to the Vatican's Foreign Minister. The piece will now be kept in the Vatican museum as a memento of their visit.

Having thanked the visiting delegates, Pope John Paul made his farewells and sent his greetings to His Majesty, promising to pray for the health of King Hussein and for the wealth of his people.



Amman panorama map now in print

JORDAN'S FIRST panoramic map has been printed, depicting the capital Amman and 150 archaeological sites, hotels, restaurants, cultural and sports centers, travel agencies and all major roads.

Created by Jordan's International Media Services Company (IMS), the map has been printed in 25,000 copies and will be distributed among private and public institutions.

"The panorama of Amman is a modern way of promoting and supporting Jordan's tourist industry," said Raed Badi, director of IMS. "It helps visitors to get an idea of the city before they arrive, and at the same time serves as a souvenir that they can take home to their countries."

He explained that the map covers a 70 by 40 meter area of Amman. It also features the 460 existing mosques in the city and a number of its churches.

IMS' next project will be a panorama of Aqaba, to be followed by a map focussing especially on Jordan's archaeological sites. V.M.

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## Can the PLO unify its ranks over the peace process?

Continued from page 3

claimed that it will not take part in elections. But the pragmatists within the Islamic movement see elections as a way to gain more influence in the territories.

Nahlas businessman and Hamas leader Anshawaee is certain that Hamas could score a victory in truly representative elections. But, he maintains, "Hamas will not participate in elections which are connected to the Israeli-made autonomy plan."

Hamas activist Saïd Bilal, on the other hand, sees no problem in participating in general elections, even if they are linked to autonomy.

According to Bilal, such elections would only prove that the Islamists are growing stronger. Besides, he believes that Islam will win either way.

"Should the agreement fail to meet Palestinian expectations, the Islamic movements will grow stronger," he says.

According to Bilal, this is bound to happen because of the question of Jerusalem, on which neither Israel nor the Palestinians are willing to compromise. Bilal would accept autonomy as a first step, and is not opposed to a Palestinian state.

"Let Rabin withdraw his troops and give us self-rule, then we will see. I am not opposed to a Palestinian state next to the State of Israel, either here or in a confederation with Jordan. Once we are strong and independent we can join forces with the Muslim Arab world and deal with the State of Israel then," he says.

According to PFLP spokesman Riyad Al Malki, the pragmatic view in favor of general elections is dominant within the Hamas movement. He insists that the PFLP will not participate in elections that are linked to autonomy, but claim that his party could gain up to 25 percent of the vote.

"The DFLP, on the other hand, will probably take part in elections. They are considering having individuals affiliated with the party run for them, instead of official DFLP representatives," Al Malki says.

Sari Nusselbeh, a prominent Palestinian close to Fatah and an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, believes that both the PFLP and DFLP will participate in elections when the time comes.

"The closer we move towards an autonomy deal and tangible gains, the more radical the opposition groups get in their attempt to boycott the deal. But in the end, the PFLP and DFLP will adjust their position according to the facts on the ground," he says.

### NOTICE

Bad weather has forced the Friends of Archaeology to postpone its Oman Day until Saturday 19 December.

Participants in the recent FOA trip to Oman will be exhibiting their photos, slides and souvenirs and swapping "Oman" stories from 6-9 pm at the FOA center at Fourth Circle (opposite former USAID office). Visitors are welcome.

## Amman's World Trade Center Businessmen's shopping center

By Bilal Hujawi  
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN'S NEWLY-opened World Trade Center (WTC) is operational and its director promises a wide variety of services that should help Jordanian and foreign businessmen keep up with ever changing and competitive global economies.

According to Mr Ousama Ghannoum, general manager of WTC, which is temporarily based at the Amman Marriott Hotel, the WTC is dedicated to bringing together facilities and services necessary to transact international business.

World Trade Centers are exclusive private clubs for members to meet, discuss their common interests, entertain clients and receive business information.

"Amman's World Trade Center is only in a primary stage with few of the world-class trade center activities actually available," Mr Ghannoum said. "Without much space our real power cannot be delivered...this is the tip of the iceberg."

Tender documents for the future building of WTC, to be located in Shmeisat, will be announced soon. "Our essential research has been concluded and it will not be long before we inaugurate the Amman World Trade Center the way it was meant to be," Mr Ghannoum added.

So far WTC has enlisted "a very satisfactory number of members." The WTC project has secured the support of influential "funding fathers." It started with seven, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Amman Chamber of Industry, Jordan Export and Development Centers Corp. (JEDCC), Jordan Industrial Estates Corp., Jordan Technology Group, the Housing Bank, and the Arab Jordan Investment Bank. Others have recently joined including the Business Bank, Bank of Jordan, Amin Kawan & Sons Co. and the Union Bank for Savings and Investment.

The World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), established in 1968, is the organizing body which supervises operational and developmental aspects of World Trade Centers worldwide. It operates through a network of 250 member centers spanning the globe.

World Trade Centers provide advice on trade opportunities, offer direct access to the libraries of international organizations, and facilitate partner search (sales, purchase, distribution, patents and licenses), help with trade promotion, technology transfers, and joint ventures.

In a broader sense, WTC acts as a shopping center complete with supporting existing services of private and government agencies in its area of operation," Mr Ghannoum said.

Most World Trade Centers have space for accommodating trade exhibitions and delegations, which are often co-sponsored by the center. Members receive preferential treatment such as discounts at selected five star hotels among other benefits.

Among the most important services offered by World Trade Centers is an electronic network with an immense informational

capacity. "All World Trade Centers integrate office space for international financial institutions, manufacturers, customs brokers, freight forwarders, government trade promotion services, legal services, insurance brokers, and professional services," Mr Ghannoum said.

In many cases temporary, as well as permanent, office space is available for members. Some affiliate centers are basically clubs and associations, that supply gathering facilities for people with common interests in international business.

Credibility is a cherished quality of World Trade Centers. Its worthiness is furthered even more by the fact that information is always updated. The speed with which a subscriber gets information on his area of interest

is almost instantaneous. Members are cross-listed through a unique electronic system that facilitates inter-searches for buyers or sellers. Companies can also communicate with each other on-line through the WTC Network System (the system requires no additional investments in equipment — a computer and a modem would do the job). Even if you don't have a computer in your office, WTC will advise you offer or tender on the system. Another system offers a bulletin board for members to scan and locate messages of interest such as notices of offers to buy or sell.

Education services are available in many World Trade Centers around the world ranging from language instruction to workshops, seminars and other training programs focusing on interna-

tional business activities. Size of business notwithstanding, each member's right of access to any WTC in the world is guaranteed by WTC's charter.

"Each center is connected to the others through a direct link. In effect, each WTC becomes an agent for all others, reciprocating information and business leads," Mr Ghannoum said. But he noted that, although all World Trade Centers operate within a single set of guidelines, each one is different, being geared to the specific needs and interests of the city it serves.

One WTC may offer Tradelink, a business opportunity system from the Bank of Boston, while another may offer the National Trade Data Bank, a database detailing latest international trade issues and practices on 250 countries.

## Jordan Yellow Pages will meet its deadline

AMMAN (Star) —General Manager of the Yellow Pages project in Jordan Mr Robert Mackett rebutted reports that the project was behind schedule and confirmed that the directory will meet its deadline of May 1993.

The Yellow Pages directory is a joint venture project between Hashimite Advertising and Publicity and Teledirect, a Canadian firm owned by Bell Canada Enterprises. It has published the yellow directories in most GCC countries, and the just finished Egyptian Yellow Pages.

"Most Arabs are not accustomed to the idea of referencing directories. I've had a chance to monitor development of another version of this project in a GCC state, and it didn't work well," one advertising executive told The Star.

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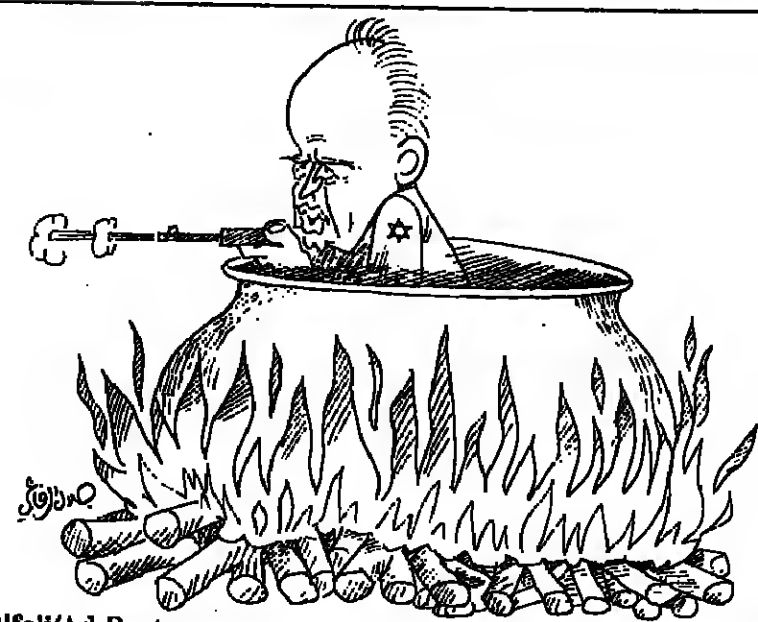
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## Our Say....

### End of the Intifada?

THE KILLING of the kidnapped Israeli soldier by Hamas activists in the Occupied Territories this week has unleashed an ugly war by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people. Mass arrests, punitive measures, open-ended curfews and general hysteria on the part of Israeli settlers will last for some time before they subside. When they do, Israel will emerge as the only loser in this bloody confrontation.

There will be more Intifada martyrs, more innocent victims, more arrests and torture, expulsions, detentions and demolitions of houses; in short the whole works. Whether the Israelis realize it or not, the kidnapping of the soldier, his execution, and the gunning down of three Israeli soldiers in Gaza a week before, all indicate a major shift in both the course of the Intifada and in the strategy of the political players inside the Palestinian population.

Gaza is the worst case for the Israelis. It is out of military and administrative control. Whatever measures Israel chooses to take against the people of Gaza, the fact is that it will be adding fuel to fire.

The Israelis are correct when they say that the Intifada is dead, or dying. But what they fail to see coming is a Palestinian revolution; more bloody than ever before. The failure of the political leadership in foreseeing this is remarkable. It is very similar to their failure in predicting the outbreak of the Intifada five years ago.

The timing could not have been better for the leaders of Hamas and other Palestinian hardliners. The peace process is bogged down, and anxious Palestinians are not convinced that it is bearing any fruit. Frustration is rife among the young, and traditional leadership is unable to satiate the masses with its usual logic.

Hamas' takeover of the Intifada is an historic event, thanks to the Israelis. It is certain that if elections are held in the Occupied Territories soon, their representatives will sweep the votes to their side.

The PLO is divided among itself. It is unable to communicate with the more radical Palestinians in the refugee camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Politically, it is struggling to maintain a role in Arab and international affairs. But the real test for Palestinian leadership is in the Occupied Territories. While Israel may try to use the current escalation of violence on the part of Hamas as an excuse to derail the peace process and cast doubt on any future settlement, the end result of its suppression will be the radicalization of Palestinians under its occupation.

A home-grown Palestinian revolution will survive, partly because its predecessor, the Intifada, absorbed the worst of Israel's retaliatory measures during the past five years. What else could Israel do to crush the Palestinians?

The most important development so far has been the weaning of Palestinian internal resistance from Arab support. It is speculative that Iran and Saudi Arabia are helping Hamas, but what counts here is the fact that today it is the local, not the external, leadership who runs the revolution.

Israel may live to regret the launching of its current war against the Palestinians. Dealing with the Intifada is one thing, but triggering a revolution may be the last thing Israel's leadership wants at this stage of the peace process. ■

## Proceeding towards the future Democracy without political parties?

By Khairi K Janbck

Democracy. This used, misused and abused term by groups and individuals across the political spectrum has become the trait of civilized and conscientious societies. Consequently, one is constantly surprised to hear and read what sections of the Jordanian intelligentsia express in an attempt to warn us against the process of democratization, while claiming its unsuitability in Jordan.

The propagators of such views have missed the point. Jordanian society is, after all, a civilized and conscientious society ruled by the law. This is a fact apparent to the intellectual as well as the layman. It is not the philosophical premise of democracy that needs to be targeted, but rather certain manifestations of democratic practices.

The Jordanian people are by no means incapable of defending their political gains. They are, however, in danger of translating those gains into a multitude of political parties and of idolizing the trappings of political democracy. In so doing, they lose sight of the fact that, as a vehicle for the comprehensive advancement of society, democracy is a means towards an end and not just an end in itself.

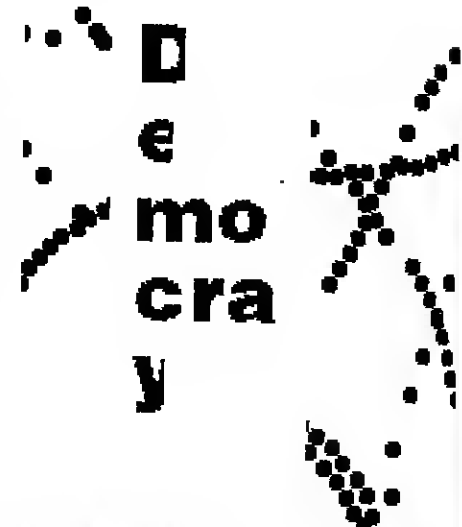
The immense challenges that face our country both nationally and internationally are not a secret. On the national level, the country is overburdened with massive debts. The demographic changes resulting from the Gulf War have increased the burden on the already overstretched resources of the government. Poverty and unemployment are on the rise, while the questions of the status of women and the environmental agenda have been lost altogether in the formula.

Internationally, the peace negotiations are in a continuous ebb and flow, without as yet any indication of an outcome — successful or otherwise. Inter-Arab relations are in such a depressed state that, for the pedantic among us, the term "Inter-Arab" would be defunct. The future of the Occupied Territories and the question of Palestinian identity remain nebulous. It is against this background that one cannot help but view the phenomenon of political parties without plenty of reservations and a certain degree of apprehension.

From the moment of its inception, the idea of a political party is a divisive one. The *raison d'être* of all political parties is the division of society along the lines of specific interest groups, be they ideological, socio-economic, religious, secular or sectarian. A country which has achieved a high level of social cohesion, a classless outlook as well as unity of purpose and action, does not need to indulge in the antithesis of the rational, logical and most desirable status quo. As we proceed towards the future, on the road to fulfilling our historical destiny, each estate will necessarily carry within it the needs of change.

With each stage, there will be many challenges which will modify our democratic process in order to absorb the effects of those challenges. At some point in the future, perhaps the need will arise for the existence of political parties. With each step our country moves forward, the path of our intentions and aspirations becomes clearer.

Let us not pre-empt the path of clarity with political programs emanating from



the muddle and confusion of the present. Otherwise, the result will be, at best, political parties with impressive form and incomprehensible content and, at worst, political parties with incomprehensible form and disappointing content.

There are some who still cling to the old ideas and recipes which only occupy prominence in the dustbins of history. A group of us continues to claim a god-given right to rule society by virtue of prestige and idiosyncratic behavior while others intend to rob the Jordanian and Palestinian people from their separate but interdependent identities by presenting them with a *fait accompli* in the guise of party politics in parliament. The nationalists of all creeds are tripping over each other to catch the limelight when, in effect, the lost refugee of a scoundrel is nationalism.

The danger signals are very clear. If we persist in rushing the natural process of development, there is the strong possibility of replacing the great edifice of the people's parliament with a white elephant project which consumes thoughts and emotions without delivering any results.

It may be said, with some justification, that the current members of our Parliament are already behaving in the manner of political parties. Be that as it may, the difference is that such individuals were elected on the basis of individual integrity and not according to any given party discipline. They remain the employees and representatives of the tax-paying Jordanian citizen and, as such, are susceptible and sensitive to the fluctuations and swings of public opinion.

The entry of such individuals into Parliament under the banner of one party or another will inevitably turn the tables on the Jordanian electorate and relegate their role to that of a massive reservoir which is to be tapped at will, only to be led by the scruff of the neck. It is imperative that we master the art of jumping small puddles before we take on the waves of the high seas.

A country whose leadership and masses think and feel in unison is the envy of friends and foes alike. Such a country has no desire to be the field of experiment for people of letters tainted with social climbing, nor does it have the need to be side-tracked by a handful of ambitious individuals who need to distort reality in order to satisfy their craving for positions of power. Jordanian democracy has a date with destiny and history alone can absolve us. ■

Khairi K Janbck is a Jordanian writer.

## The UN of the future? Humanitarian assistance turns to democratic interference

TO SEE how the world has gradually slipped from humanitarian assistance into what is often very uneasy democratic interference, one must examine Bernard Kouchner's book *Le Malheur des Autres* (Other People's Misfortune), published by Odile Jacob in Paris in 1991.

The writer, the doctor who founded *Médecins sans Frontières* and *Médecins du Monde*, was the French government's State Secretary for Humanitarian Relief and is now Minister of Health and Humanitarian Relief.

Kouchner spent 20 years providing humanitarian relief in the midst of conflicts in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, from Biafra in 1968 to Liberia in 1991, "in the kind of places where people shoot first and then stretch out on the ground to die, crying for their mothers at the very moment when they have just killed their own neighbor mother."

His book, like everything else he has done, is a plea "against the antiquated theory of national sovereignty hallowed as a defense for massing people." And now that intervention, which he believes to be a duty and in some circumstances a right, has become a legally accepted international practice, he welcomes the fact that "human suffering is no longer a silent by-product of politics and sovereignty, for countries have started taking other people's misfortune into account."

This made its first official appearance in 1987 at a *Médecins du Monde*-Paris-Saint-Louis conference. "We had to leave ethics and target setting and fraternal international practice behind us and go boldly forward, 'manufacturing law' on the legal terrain."

On 11 December 1988, the then State Secretary, on behalf of France, tabled Resolution 45/131 in the UN General Assembly, laying down a right of access to provide



Should the UN intervene in Bosnia as it did in Somalia?

"humanitarian assistance to victims of disasters and similar emergency situations." It was adopted unanimously.

The following day, 9 December, the then USSR opened its doors to international aid for the first time — for the earthquake in Armenia. The following year, it was Lebanon, Sudan, Liberia and Romania.

The UN's first official humanitarian intervention was to help Kurds on Iraqi soil. "Interference had at last won the right to exist as a means of conducting politics."

None of this would have been possible had the UN Security Council not adopted Resolution No. 688 of 5 April 1991, enshrining the right to humanitarian relief, recognizing that the natural right of man came before the right of States and authorizing a humanitarian force to move into

sovereign territory to save lives.

The international community thereby asserted a right to take a humanitarian interest inside national boundaries — "placing genuine curbs on a sovereignty which empowered a country to kill its own nationals. A code of ethics without frontiers was emerging."

Can the duty to intervene become a right? Yes, it can, maintains Bernard Kouchner, provided it takes place under the banner of neutral, impartial organizations.

UN General Assembly resolutions 43/131 and 45/100 only provide for external assistance where the state to which the territory belongs cannot (or will not) provide the relief itself and the distressed population can only survive with outside help.

What about the danger of military escalation? The right to intervene, Dr Kouchner maintains, does not mean using troops and the threat of armed intervention must only be used in the name of human rights as a last resort.

Since this book came out, humanitarian interference has gained ground, particularly in Somalia and what was Yugoslavia, and this dossier takes stock of it.

As the Kurdish leader Talabani put it: "Politicians invent things, lawyer just take photographs." Meanwhile, the international humanitarian movement has gone on working, going beyond states and policies, in the name of civil society. And since things are always out of hand somewhere, there are people who sit back and complain that humanitarian interference is an excuse for failing to carry out direct military intervention.

In the *Le Monde* 'Images' column on 12 September 1992, Daniel Schneiderman talked about a television report on Bernard Kouchner's work in Somalia: "In the middle of the program, on came Bernard Kouchner in a bottle-green safari suit, with dying children all around him. He was on his knees, his hands stretched out to an empty sky or stroking the little bodies for which all hope was gone. He shouted. He harangued us. He harangued the whole world, people going on holiday, people lying on their sofas watching the Olympic Games and people who could not care less about Somalia or have got it tucked away in a little mental drawer which they can open and shut as they like — very handy, that. None of these children even has a sheet to be buried in," he shouted.

"We could only sit trembling there on the settee, looking at him kneeling in the dust. Shame is a chilly emotion."

"It makes you shiver. We wanted to rebel and shout back: 'And what about you?' And what about you, Minister? Don't you have a child at school in a nice part of town? Don't you have a holiday home on a nice beach somewhere? Yes, but he was down there in Somalia repeating absurd, pointless gestures, knowing it was a waste of time, digging the desert up with a teaspoon. We were not. And all we could do was keep quiet. Keep quiet and weep." ■

The Courier

By Cracker Snow Jr.

MAURICE STRONG, the energetic and peripatetic head of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro last June, was telling tales out of school.

Addressing a mixed group of government, business and environmental folk at a World Times conference in Alaska to review the Rio happening (which attracted no less than 127 heads of state and government), Strong related a story stolen from Henry Kissinger's first visit to China and first meeting with Mao Zedong.

Kissinger opened the meeting remarking that he admired some of the results of the Chinese revolution. Mao said nothing. Kissinger, unsettled, then asked the great man what he thought about the French Revolution. "Well," said Mao, "it's too soon to tell."

This, said Strong, is just how he feels about the Earth Summit in Rio. Revolutionary or not, the results of what was the largest and loudest — some would say the most important — international conference in history will take generations to measure.

Two binding treaties, a range of protocols embodying 27 basic principles of environmental performance, and the voluntary agenda 21 blueprint of 100 new economic development and environmental planning initiatives notwithstanding, the ultimate impact will be determined by a combination of the political will of governments and attitudinal change of people.

Less than six months after the event, much on the international political front has changed. The official host of the Rio meeting, Brazil's then President Fernando Collor de Mello is under impeachment proceedings for corruption. The meeting's prime whipping boy, US President George Bush, appears a lame duck. And his statement in Rio that "the American life style is not open for negotiation" still ranks UN leaders, who described it as "not worthy of a superpower." European political leaders

## Rio aftershocks

are struggling with the twin instabilities of refugees and currency devaluations.

But Maurice Strong and his centurions are undeterred. Like missionaries with a new gospel, they are beginning to circulate and spread out around the world, visiting chancelleries, attending academic convocations and addressing community groups to pump life and action into the agreements reached in Rio.

As the chief composer and conductor, Strong stresses that implementation of the agreements is far more important than adopting further new ones. "But there's a big danger of backlash now," he warned. "It can come from the poor countries due to the expense and complications involved in implementing new restrictions, and from the rich countries especially the US, in adopting an approach of selective adherence to the international agreements."

Mostafa Tolba, the longtime but soon-to-retire head of the United Nations Environment Program, speaks a similar line. "Instead of more conventions now, we must improve upon the ones in place," he told a group of international scientists and environmentalists gathered at a "Global Environmental Accords" symposium at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in late September.

"There must be a binding agreement for liability and compensation for transborder environmental damage," he said. "The weak link now is verification. Much of the time we simply don't know if there is compliance with the conventions. This threat is hardly less than the threat of nuclear war. Beyond this, Earth monitoring for environmental problems and violations via satellite and remote sensing will help determine if, over time, the conventions are doing

any good."

Yet the follow-up to Rio is an emotional issue as much as it is a rational or scientific one. At the Alaska conference, a Mexican environmentalist who attended the Earth Summit (and is doing as much as the appointed officials to spread the word), took an altogether different tack: "We're trying to find the magic bullet by rationalizing things," said Luis Manuel Guerra, a prominent Mexican chemist turned communicator. "But for most people on Earth, the issue isn't rational, but emotional."

"Only 20 percent of humankind has the privilege of thinking about the future," Guerra reminded his audience in reacting to glib talk about lessening consumer appetites and life styles. "The average poor Mexican I talk to says to me: 'I want a car, I want a VCR, I want a microwave oven. I want a home.' I can tell you that's what people all over the world are tolling for," Guerra said. "Shall I tell you about the

people of India, of China, of Kenya, of Brazil? They want to survive first and then to achieve a better life in material terms. They don't know about sustainable development."

And there's the rub. In laying the blame for depletion of the Earth's resources, the debate at the Earth Summit was between those of the rich, developed world pointing at overpopulation in the South and those of the poor, underdeveloped world pointing at overconsumption in the North. The fact that the rich world represents 20 per cent of world population and consumes 80 per cent of its resources has become the syllogism of the day.

To the guilt-ridden from the North, it's a reminder of Mahatma Gandhi's classic statement when asked what he thought of Western civilization: "It would be a good idea." To the realists of the South, like Mexico's Manuel Guerra, it's underscoring the conclusion that "you can't approach a global state of sustainable development before fostering a state of economic equilibrium." ■

Cracker Snow Jr. is the editor-in-chief of *WorldPaper*.



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# Japan's artistic legacy through millennia

By Naseem Abdallah

THE EARLIEST Japanese walked the earth on Japan's constellation of islands some 202,000 years ago. They were mostly hunters and gatherers, trying to make the most of the abundant resources of forests and coastlines. As they began to settle down, craftsmanship began.

In a recent show at the Arthur M. Sackler gallery, entitled *Ancient Japan*, some of the earliest examples of Japanese artisanship, stone tools from about 200,000 BC, were shown alongside more recent examples of art. Many of them were designated national treasures and were brought outside Japan for the first time.

Almost no nation on earth takes archaeology as seriously as the Japanese. More than 20,000 sites are excavated each year across Japan, a hobby pushed to its extreme in recent years by a ceaseless destruction of old buildings or their remains.

Japan is so short of flatland and its largely mountainous topography that almost every urban and agricultural area lies over earlier sites — most of which have been dug up and examined.

As Richard Pearson, author and co-curator of the exhibition observes in an introduction to the show, "the care and energy devoted by the Japanese to the recovery of artefacts and to the preservation of their ancient culture are remarkable."

Before building can commence on a modern structure, archaeologists labor to recover the buried evidence of early peoples. "Whole villages are exposed, their houses and cemeteries intact under the soil of rich paddies or ash flows spewed from non-dormant volcanoes."

Blades shipped of volcanic glass, fragments of the world's oldest pottery, swords and daggers of contending chiefs and violators of the first ruling clans are all subjected to expert scrutiny.

*Ancient Japan* was widely hailed as one of the most important exhibitions to come from Japan examining a land few outsiders know about, the society that precedes by several millennia the high temple of technology and industrial culture.

From the earliest signs of human activity around 200,000 BC to the establishment of a centralized state in about 700 AD, the history of ancient Japan has emerged mainly through archaeological excavations. *Ancient Japan* made full use of the material yielded by archaeological excavation, which remains a national pastime as well as a government priority.

Ann Yonemura, associate curator of Japanese art at the gallery worked together with anthropologist Pearson, from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, to put together a show that offered an almost unprecedented insight into the people and the place.

Although excavations have gone on in Japan through several decades, most of the 258 objects — made of stone, clay, wood, bone, lacquer and bronze and recovered from 63 sites — were the

fruits of excavations since 1970.

What made *Ancient Japan* important and different from other shows held earlier was its thesis that art and crafts thrived in Japan since as far back as the archaeologist's shovel would yield. True, much of Japanese art has derived from Chinese or Korean traditions, but before the foreign influences began to seep in, Japanese craftsmen were busy creating objects that remain testaments to their artistic genius.

As the first exhibition in the West devoted to Japan's prehistoric past, *Ancient Japan* proved to be as informative as it was provocative in the way it seemed to respond to classic misconceptions about the country's past.

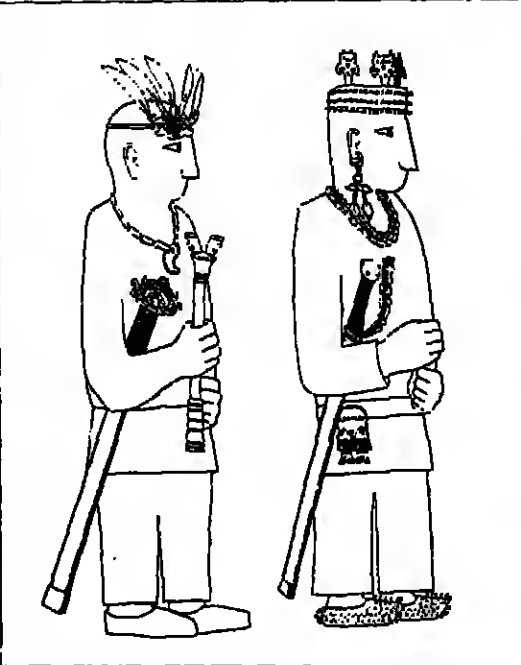
The Japanese of the Paleolithic period (Stone Age) moved camp frequently in search of food sources and, as they did so in small family groups, they devised tools of stone. Among the earliest tools in the show is a group dated to about 200,000 BC. While archaeologists have not yet decided what some of the tools are for, they are convinced that some may have been used to scrape for food, or formed the blades of spears or knives.

In their quest for innovation and sophistication, the ancient Japanese moved on to producing ceramics around 10,500 BC and then began experimenting with rice cultivation, brought over

from continental Asia, around 400 BC. Excavations relevant in this time, known as the Jomon period, have helped create detailed images of life as it was.

The Jomon refined their stone tools and used them in increasingly complex methods of food preparation. They sought to brighten up their functional ceramics with elaborate decorative techniques, including the use of twisted or knotted cord or notched sticks.

With better food supplies came larger communities and more complex settlements in which elite groups headed a social hierarchy and controlled large areas and people living there. During the ensuing Yayoi period (400 BC-AD 250), the Japanese learned bronze-casting techniques from the Chinese and the Koreans and switched to stone



Paramount chiefs of the Kofun period

moulds for casting spearheads, daggers and ritual bells.

Rapid change and bloody conflict came in the Kofun period as the society's increased wealth led to a contest for territories among elite leaders or kings. The introduction of iron led to today's equivalent of no arms glut, with ever deadlier weapons and armor playing a role on the battlefield and in establishing the writ of nobles over large territories.

The kings wanted to be seen apart from the populace not only in their living glory but also in death. Excavations of immured tombs, or *kofun*, of kings and nobles have revealed valuable objects, from bronze mirrors to stone ornaments as well as costumes and gilt-bronze saddle fittings.

In the Asuka period (600-710), powerful families in Nara, on Japan's largest island, Honshu, succeeded in centralizing a government and forming a bureaucracy that penetrated outlying areas. Chinese and Korean experts helped to erect large buildings for temples and government offices.

This growth was supplemented by the introduction of Buddhism in the mid-sixth century, which considerably expanded the horizons of the Japanese, while giving the Japanese language the Chinese system of writing. Writing implements from this formative age were already sophisticated, as evidenced by an ink stick shaped like a bird and an inkstone in the form of a bird which are on display.

The ancient Japanese practiced economy in all aspects of their lives. They used wood slips instead of paper to write short notes — then recycled the wood by scraping the surface. That economy of lifestyle seems to dominate Japanese society to this day.

## Sketchpad pioneers of the Raj

By Maggie James

PAULINE ROHATGI spent 17 years working in the Prints and Drawings section of the India Office Library and Records, and prints became her special interest.

The varied, attractive and evocative reproductions, all of them from the India Office Library, chosen for her book *Scenic Splendors: India Through the Printed Image*, which she co-authored with Pheroza Godrej, bring their subjects vividly to life.

The book's theme is landscape artists of the 18th and 19th centuries — men and women, mainly British, who explored and sketched the subcontinent. It was an area that gave artists numerous opportunities to portray a great range of subjects in many different ways.

The authors discuss the topographical prints of 40 of these itinerant artists, regarded as "pioneers" for various reasons. Although they tended to follow the same routes and visited the same places while travelling in the country, many of them also explored and sketched remote areas. This often resulted in the earliest visual portrayal of these places in print.

Samples of their work intersperse the book — sketches, engravings, lithographs, etchings and aquatints — plus a small bibliography of each artist and their impressions of the scenes they encountered. At the back of the

book an appendix lists the publication details of over 2000 prints by these same artists.

After the establishment and rapid expansion of the East India Company in the subcontinent in the 17th century, curious westerners ventured in the area.

"Company servants, envoys, merchants, missionaries and explorers were among the early European travellers to India. Many of them were deeply interested in aspects of Indian culture and the historic, religious and social traditions of the country. Some were enthralled by the exotic architecture, including the fine palaces and mosques of the Mughals with their domes and minarets; others were intrigued by mysterious temples adorned with curious gods."

"The more adventurous," add the authors, "discovered a variety of scenery, ranging from remote mountain regions and deserts to dense jungles and extremes of climate. They also encountered the great rivers flowing for hundreds of miles through the subcontinent."

Foreign travel and exploration offered a wider scope to the landscape artist. Many were inspired to see their pictures reproduced as prints. This created a vogue, which lasted until about 1860, for fine topographical prints and color-plate books, illustrated with landscapes of countries far afield. During this heyday, the authors estimate, about 5000 fine topographical prints of the subcontinent were published.

In 1786, the Daniells, Thomas and his nephew William, arrived in Calcutta. Thomas Daniell had been granted permission by the East India Company's Court of Directors to practise as an engraver in Bengal.

Spending 18 months in Calcutta, Thomas and William made many drawings of their new environment and Thomas was responsible for the engravings for the first series of topographical views to be printed in India. They travelled on through India for another three years, sketching their way through the countryside.

The Daniells' view of India, comprising 144 large hand-colored aquatints with etching, were published in London between March 1795 and December 1808. Their prolific and excellent talents were to make them renowned artists.

Many travellers wrote illuminating descriptions of their journeys in diaries, letters and chronicles. Several of these volumes and many others by equally perceptive pioneers are also illustrated with woodcuts and engravings. These prints were



'Landing on the North Beach, Madras'

based upon drawings and maps probably by the writers themselves or their fellow-travellers. Sometimes, however, they derived from prints already published.

Two different printing techniques were used for book illustration and print making. Relief print used woodcut and intaglio printing used a metal plate, usually of copper. From these methods came line-engraving, etching, mezzotint, aquatint and lithography, processes described in the book — all used to reproduce the artists' work at that time.

After 1860, photo-mechanical methods of printing began to replace early techniques and photography became popular, but through their fine pictures the pioneering artists had already captured India for posterity.

Academic File

By Biswajit Choudhury

LESS THAN a year into major economic reforms India is once again in a fix. But, as the opposition builds up attacks on the Congress government, international credit agency officials are keeping their fingers crossed and remain hopeful of a recovery.

Faced with a foreign currency crunch — with reserves just enough for a few weeks of imports — the government managed to tide over the summer with an emergency loan from the International Monetary Fund. The timely cash input was accompanied by moral support — the IMF found reason to applaud the government's proclaimed resolve of reforming the economy.

The policy measures that met with the IMF's approval were a familiar mix of the bitter and the sweet — cuts in subsidies and in the public sector, deregulation of industry and liberalization of imports and less curbs on foreign investments.

The IMF loan helped to bring India's exchange reserves to a comfortable level of \$6.5 billion, but it coincided with an alarming 44 percent increase in imports over last year. Despite a partial conversion of the rupee, exports failed to catch up with imports and, as things stand, India's performance abroad seems nowhere near bridging the deteriorating trade balance.

The reforms are hurting out IMF projections of low growth in the first three to four years of readjustment. The GDP growth estimated for the current year is 2.5 percent, the lowest in four years. They are also having traumatic effects across a whole spectrum of society.

But the multinational organizations, the World Bank and IMF among them, seem unperturbed. Most experts concerned with these agencies remain loyal to the extent that they appear willing to ignore the government's failure to meet this year's targets in three important and interrelated areas — the budget deficit, a runaway money supply and inflation.

As proof of good intent, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh pledged to lower the fiscal deficit, then at above 8 percent of the GDP, down to 5 percent. So far it has hovered near 6 percent, and as the government continues to borrow heavily, the money supply continues to surge — and dilute efforts to hold down the inflation rate below 10 percent from 17 percent last year.

The political backlash from the reforms already has led the ruling Congress Party to review its decisions and approach the potential minefields in a roundabout way.

The cuts in government subsidies for fertilizers were reduced in the face of opposition and rather than face a nationwide uproar with pay cuts in the state sector, the government has chosen to up revenues by raising petrol prices.

Programs of health care, education, employment and investment in infrastructure have all suffered, but Singh has been careful to advance the argument that cutbacks are better than borrowing. "Every year our secretaries and economic advisers have to go to the World Bank and the IMF for loans," he said recently. "I have played the role for some time and I can tell you that it can be very humiliating."

Industry and exports are the keystones of the new reforms, a projected long-term answer to India's massive debt burden. To this end the contours of the post-independence economy, inspired by the first Prime Minister Jawahar

## Rebound or bust? India takes the bitter pill

lal Nehru, have been altered beyond recognition. The licensing system, by which the government regulated industry, has all but been abolished.

Elsewhere, however, effects of the new measures have been quite traumatic. The figures are negative for both industrial production and manufacturing. Industry is simultaneously battling against rising costs, a recession in consumer demand and a credit squeeze.

The shock of the sudden import curbs, levied to steady the frightening balance of the payments situation last year also lingers. It is by no means certain that Indian industry can overcome the temptation of serving a potentially gigantic home market first and export later.

In the earlier round of restructuring in the mid-1980s foreign trade and capital inflows were lib-

eralized, but with rising domestic demand manufacturers felt tempted to sell within the country. By 1991, the import-export imbalance was being reflected in a staggering debt of \$70 billion, forcing India to negotiate an IMF standby loan of \$2.5 billion, the precursor for the most extensive economic restructuring in the country's history.

Some of the basic measures for opening up the economy have been aimed at attracting foreign capital or making local industry more competitive and more efficient in exports. For the first time foreign firms have been allowed a majority 51 percent equity holding, including access to areas like petroleum prospecting and power, hitherto barred to foreigners. Some of the multinationals which have had their projects sanctioned include General Electric, IBM, BMW, Coca Cola and Kellogg.

But approvals worth \$1.4 billion, though a substantial jump over earlier years, do not yet point to a rush to invest in India. Foreign companies are seeking, among other things, greater flexibility in the hiring and firing of staff, and in the closing of factories. An 'exit' policy for retrenchment has been on the cards, but it is a politically sensitive issue and, on Singh's own admission, will take more time before resolution.

A full-scale convertibility of the rupee may potentially make Indian goods cheaper abroad, but it can also reap headaches, like rising prices when exports by all accounts are to be seen to grow. The issue is fraught with risks for India, particularly since most economies outside are in recession and the uncertainties about GATT presage a further round of

protectionism. Singh has said that he does not want to be in a situation similar to that which Russia faces after introducing a unified exchange rate. Meanwhile, India's debt burden now exceeds \$100 billion. Although Singh returned from Washington in November with news of a fresh loan installment from the IMF, commercial lenders still have not given India a credit rating.

The reforms aimed at reducing that burden and bringing the economy back in line may have lowered inflation but they signify an increase in real prices of up to 20 percent, which would add another 10 million people to the 320 million already existing below the poverty line.

With the political opposition already flexing its muscles over price rises, the government evidently hopes to get enough mileage out of its anti-inflationary measures to be able to steer Indians through the current restructuring program as an essential but painful process.

Academic File

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## Book review

# Fading frontiers in a hi-tech Nirvana

By Charles Vinding

**HOW THE WORLD WAS ONE: Beyond the Global Village, by Arthur C. Clarke. Victor Gollancz. pp289.**

ARTHUR C. Clarke has one distinction not shared by any other science fiction writer, and this difference makes any new book of his worth consideration.

Clarke invented — or at least brought to the world's attention — the idea of geostationary communications satellites. More than any other single invention, these space-hung relay stations — which circle unobtrusively above one fixed spot on Earth — are creating what is called "the global village."

"Arthur Clarke believes and insists in his unusual new book that the world is now moving, 'beyond the Global Village.'"

"Despite all the linguistic, religious and cultural barriers that still under notions and divide them into yet smaller tribes, the unification of the world has passed the point of no return," he

writes.

"Except for a few dwindling tribes in, alas, equally dwindling forests, the human race has now become almost a single entity, divided by time zones rather than the natural frontiers of geography."

"The same TV news networks cover the globe; the world's markets are linked by the most complex machine ever devised by mankind — the international telephone/telex/fax/data transfer system."

"The same newspapers, magazines, fashions, consumer goods, automobiles, soft drinks may be found anywhere between the north and South Poles; and at a World Cup Final, at least 50 per cent of the male of the species will be found sitting in front of a TV set, probably made in Japan."

But all this, Clarke says, is a mere beginning.

Before long, he says, the communications revolution will create a common language for all mankind. He speaks of national frontiers disappearing "for all practical purposes, of a world where military secrecy is impossible, where 'the free flow of in-

formation and cross-border data transfer will be decided by engineers, not the politicians."

Clarke is almost 75, still lives in Sri Lanka, and this, his 25th book, is not supposed to be a book of predictions. "Beyond the Global Village" is merely its subtitle. Its real title — which Clarke says "cannot be properly translated from English into any other language" — is: How the World was One.

The world was one, in the sense of battle victory, by becoming, i.e., "the present global society." Clarke says two technologies won the victory, transportation and communication. "And it could be argued that the second is more important."

So the outward purpose of How the World was One is to tell the story of the communications revolution, its inventions, the men behind them, and the "titanic struggles to make the inventions work."

First came "the Victorian Age's equivalent of the Apollo project" which put men on the moon — the epic battles to lay the first telegraph cables across the Atlantic Ocean.

## ARTHUR C. CLARKE



### HOW THE WORLD WAS ONE BEYOND THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

Clarke's book next follows telephone traffic across the sea, first by radio and then — 41 years later, a fact which will surprise many — by undersea cables.

And then, into the sky with the communications satellite Clarke envisioned in 1945.

The story itself is fascinating. What induces a sense of wonder is the sheer speed at which these world-changing developments took place.

"When Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, she had no swifter means of sending messages to the far parts of her empire than had Julius Caesar — or, for that matter, Moses," Clarke writes.

"The galloping horse and the wind-driven sailing ship remained the swiftest means of transport, as they had been for 5,000 years."

Yet "by 1840, the electric telegraph had left the laboratory... Within 10 years it had covered most of Europe and the settled portions of North America."

At the turn of the century came "the most swiftly expanding industry the world has ever seen" — not computers but radio. Radio spanned the Atlantic in 1901 and carried voices between continents in 1915.

The first telephone-carrying submarine cable, completed in 1956, handled 36 conversations at once. The latest, laid in 1990, handles 80,000 conversations at once. "It could transmit the contents of the entire Encyclopaedia Britannica across the Atlantic in a single second."

Satellites saw the same explosive growth after Sputnik 1 in 1957. "There is more — much more — to come," Clarke writes.

At this point in the book it becomes clear that he is using his tale of history to launch predictions about the future. For instance:

"The transistor revolution is still just beginning," even though

already there are probably more radios than people on planet Earth."

"Cheap solar cells" will replace expensive batteries, Clarke predicts. And this will create another revolution, one which will see every person on Earth interconnected, actually or potentially, by two-way channels of information.

"Before long the world will be flooded with inexpensive radios and other low-powered electronic devices that will cost nothing to run and will last virtually forever."

Satellite-linked, solar-powered telephones will penetrate every inhabited spot on Earth, no matter how remote. More sophisticated devices will soon follow.

Just around the corner, Clarke predicts, is "the personal telephone — shall I call it a Talk-man?" — worn on the person and carried everywhere. Soon, too, we'll have the attaché-case office, using satellites to transmit data, text, fax or speech from anywhere to anywhere.

"The economic and sociopolitical consequences of (all) this will be profound," Clarke writes.

Arthur C. Clarke is a master at recycling, and much of this book is recycled from earlier books, speeches and articles. It even includes some of his science fiction stories.

Yet it is a book for everyone, not only those interested in communications history. It is full of colorful portraits of creative geniuses, packed with delightful asides, written with all of Clarke's skill.

But its main virtue is to indicate where the communications revolution is still heading at breakneck speed. Reading this, Clarke notes, one should remember that "almost all of this book was science fiction less than a lifetime ago."

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## Christmas spirit prevails in Salt

By Dr. Andrew L. de Carpenter  
Special to The Star

THE TOWN of Salt's many claims to fame lie, apart from being the butt of many popular jokes, in three Prophetic truths (Joshua, Elise and Gnd — the son of Jacob), its last status as the capital of Transjordan in Ottoman times, its many — though still mostly hidden — antiquities in the hills of Gilead and its friendly, old, original architecture which has survived the onslaughts of concrete. More recently, the "Holy Land Institute for the Deaf" added (or so I would like to think) to its assets.

Founded in 1964, it was the first institute for handicapped children in the country. Meanwhile it has developed into a school which now caters for more than 130 deaf children and young people within the Institute's premises, with another 75 that are reached with education through its growing extension programs in refugee camps and rural villages.

Education begins typically at pre-school level for three and a half year-olds and continues through the elementary, preparatory and for some the secondary levels. It usually winds up with vocational training in one of quite a number of trades, ranging from the technical to the artistic, from computers to embroidery.

For from having become snail and docile the Institute appears to be a hive of activity where all and everything seem somehow important. Extra-curricular activities include research in bi-lingual deaf education (Arabic and Sign language with English added in the first elementary grade).

A serious effort is made to develop Arabic language curricula and syllabi for both deaf education as well as Teacher Training.

Mainstream education (deaf children integrated individually or as groups in regular schools) is being developed in order to help provide for the needs of the large number of deaf children that have to manage without an education because "for them there is no room in the schools."

One of the striking features of the Institute is that about twenty percent of the staff are deaf. I hasten to add that they are not employed because they are deaf but because they are very good in their respective jobs, with their deafness being just a great extra qualification.

They are living examples of what education can mean in the lives of people who would otherwise be forgotten, or at best tolerated on the margins of our society.

What do Christmas and deaf education at the school in Salt have in common?

Education involves, of course, the transfer of knowledge and skills, which is important in itself.

But more than that, one of its first and main objectives is to instill in the students a sense of responsibility, which naturally includes responsibility for their own lives, their own future, but also focuses strongly on the responsibility they, and we all, have for one another and the society we live in.

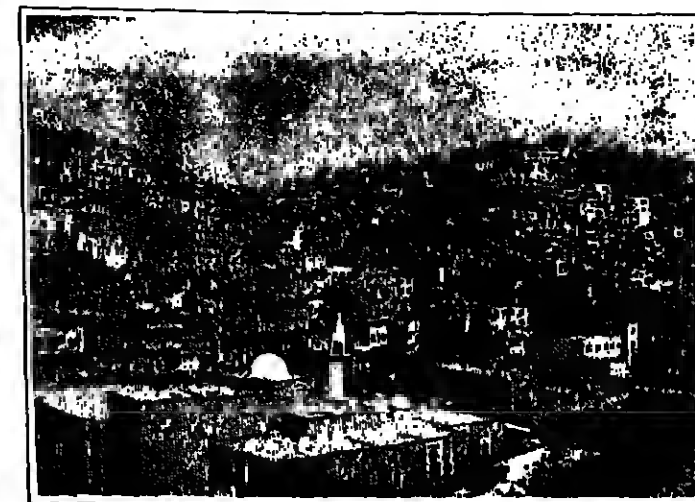
In the Institute this sense of responsibility is apparent everywhere. All, from the senior staff to the smallest children, have a

job, a task, a responsibility, ranging from cleaning the play grounds to running the place.

And always the older ones look after the younger, the stronger after the weaker, the bigger after the smaller. In that sense everybody in his or her own sinner or bigger way is involved in educating others.

A second main objective is that all are asked, and encouraged, to give their best. "Good enough" is not good enough; only the best one has to offer is good. This, again, applies to staff as well as students, and although we are all only human and usually come up short of this goal, it remains the only standard.

Christmas ought to be more than a nice, warm and friendly time. It intends to be an intense personal "educational" experience of God's interference and participation in a most practical and "human" way in the history



and the world of man, whether they be shepherds or kings, housewives, carpenters or hotel managers, adults or children, you

or me. The angels appeared to real people, and indeed the Mes-

Continued on page 12



Christmas  
special  
Section

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## Christmas cheer at St Vincent De Paul

By Rula Khoury  
Special to The Star

"I WOULD like to see my mother," confided Zeina, when I asked her to tell me her wish for the coming Christmas. Zeina has lived at St Vincent De Paul for three consecutive years, along with her two other sisters.

Established in 1957, St Vincent De Paul is a home in Amman for children who are directly affected by social and economic problems. It is run by nuns who substitute for teachers and parents. The children are provided with the basic necessities of life and, most importantly, with love and affection.

The atmosphere at the home can only be described as being happy and warm. After having woken up, the children's voices ring through the halls as they run to the living room to watch television and have a snack. It was there that I met Zeina, a seeming-

ly bright and cheerful seven-year-old. Zeina is enjoying the Christmas season and is counting the days until she is reunited with her mother, whom she hasn't seen in several months.

It is at this time of the year that the children go "home" for vacation, to visit their parents or relatives, depending on the situation of each child. Of all the children interviewed, the most overwhelmingly popular wish was to meet again with their parents. Ranging in age between three and twelve years, these innocent children all share the same dream.

The youngsters at St Vincent De Paul attend school in the morning, after which they have lunch, take a break and study until dinner time. The younger children attend pre-school, in which they get to draw and produce beautiful art work, which is kept for them and sent home to their parents to see at the end of each



year. The children were very proud of their art work; each of them pointing to the one that he or she created.

When a friend and I joined the children in the living room, they were all eager to talk to us and sit next to us. They were very friendly, and were encouraged to be so by the thoughtful nuns.

They sang us Christmas carols, which they know in over three languages, mainly Arabic, English and Italian.

The children are kept busy at this time of the year by visitors who come to share the joy of Christmas with them, either by singing in choirs or by preparing them treats. Anything offered them is appreciated immensely, and the happiness shines in their beautiful eyes. Although we, unfortunately, had nothing to give them, the hugs we exchanged meant so much more — with most of them wanting to squeeze in an extra hug or two.

St Vincent De Paul serves many children, teaching them to love and respect each other, whatever individual differences they might have. They are all special human beings who have been given a second chance at a better life. Season's Greetings to all of the children at St Vincent De Paul and everywhere. ■



Christmas  
special  
Section

## Christmas spirit prevails in Salt

Continued from page 11

siah was born within an ordinary but very real household in the small town of Bethlehem.

One of the precepts of Christmas is that the Lord God, the Creator, does not shy away from the responsibility he has for his creation.

Whatever our religious background, I believe we can all take this message to heart. If the Lord God was prepared to take full responsibility for his work, even when things seemed to go wrong, should we not do the same for ours?

Isn't this implied in "doing" his will, to direct our search in this direction — to assume our responsibilities whatever they are?

This responsibility and concern were made real by God's gift of the most beautiful, the dearest, the greatest, the best he had — the Messiah; not by "being nice" or doing something that was "good enough", like appointing a committee for example.

Somewhat he contrived, in the birth of the Messiah, to give the most valuable, indeed, to give himself, which made the angels sing "Peace on earth towards men who are of good — of God's — will."

And if only the best is good enough for the Lord God, the Creator, should not the same standard apply to us?

Are we Peace makers? By assuming our responsibilities, great or small, and instilling this sense of responsibility in others?

Are we Peace makers? By giving the best we can, the most precious we have?

A Happy and Blessed Christmas, and Peace to you who are of good — of God's — Will. ■

Brother Andrew de Carpentier is director of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Salt.

## Everything you ever wanted to know about Christmas

THE NAME Christmas comes from the Old English *Crīstes mæsse*, which meant "Christ's Mass", and developed as a Christian festival on December 25, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. According to a Roman almanac, the Christian festival of Christmas was celebrated in Rome by AD 336.

In the Eastern part of the Roman Empire, however, a festival on January 6 commemorated the manifestation of God in both the birth and the baptism of Jesus, except in Jerusalem, where only the birth was celebrated. During the fourth century the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25 was gradually adopted by most Eastern churches.

In Jerusalem, opposition to Christmas lasted longer, but it was subsequently accepted. In the Armenian church, Christmas was never accepted; Christ's birth is celebrated on January 6.

The traditional customs connected with Christmas have developed from several sources as a result of the coincidence of the celebration of the birth of Christ with the pagan agricultural and solar observances at midwinter. In the Roman world the Saturnalia (December 17) was a time of merry making and the exchange of gifts. December 25 was also regarded as the birth date of the Iranian mystery god Mithra, the Sun of Righteousness.

On the Roman New Year (January 1), houses were decorated with greenery and lights, and gifts were given to children and the poor. To these observances were added the German and Celtic Yule rites when the Teutonic tribes penetrated into Gaul, Britain and central Europe.

Food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, gifts and greetings all commemorated different aspects of this festive season. Fires and lights, symbols of warmth and lasting life, have always been associated with the winter festival, both pagan and Christian.

Christmas traditions, such as the sending of Christmas cards and the decorating of trees have similarly interesting backgrounds. The practice of sending Christmas cards as an expression of goodwill has been followed by all English-speaking countries, and is growing in others.

Though wood engravers produced prints with religious themes in the Middle Ages, the first Christmas card, as the term is now understood, is believed to have been designed in England in 1843. The design was of a family party, beneath which were the words "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

The Christmas tree is an evergreen decorated with lights and ornaments as a part of the season's festivities.

The use of evergreen trees as a symbol of eternal life was an

ancient custom of the Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews. Tree worship, common among the pagan Europeans, survived after their conversion to Christianity in the Scandinavian custom of decorating the house and barn with evergreens of the New Year to scare away the devil and of setting up a tree for the birds during Christmas-time; it survived further in the custom of putting a tree at the entrance of or inside a house.

The modern Christmas



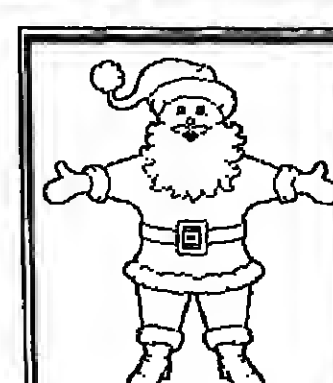
tree originated in Germany, as a prop in a medieval play about Adam and Eve (the Paradise tree). The Germans set up this tree on December 24, the religious feast of Adam and Eve. They hung wafers on it (symbolizing the host), which were later replaced by biscuits. Candles were added as a symbol of Christ. In the same room was the Christmas pyramid, a triangular construction made of wood, with shelves for Christmas figurines, evergreens, candles and a star. By the 16th century, the Christmas

pyramid and Paradise tree had merged, becoming the Christmas tree.

Introducing into England in the early 19th century, the Christmas tree was popularized by the German Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria.

The Victorian tree was decorated with candles, candies and fairy cakes

hung from the branches with ribbon and by paper chains. Brought to America by German settlers in as early as the 17th century, Christmas trees were the height of fashion by the 19th century. In China and Japan, Christmas trees introduced by US missionaries in the 19th and 20th centuries were decorated with intricate paper designs. ■



Christmas  
special  
Section

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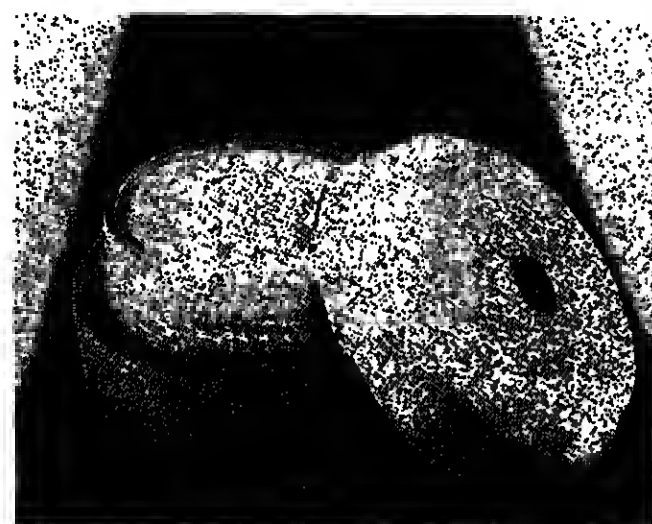


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## Season's special

## International Christmas recipes

## Germany

## SCHNECKEN

## DOUGH

1 envelope active dry yeast  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup warm water  
1/4 cup butter or margarine  
1 cup milk  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 large eggs, lightly beaten  
4 3/4 to 5 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

## FILLING

1 cup pecans, chopped  
2/3 cup raisins  
1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar  
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted

Stir yeast and 1/2 teaspoon of the sugar into the warm water. Let stand about 10 minutes until foamy (means yeast is active). Melt butter in a small saucepan. Stir in milk, remaining sugar and the salt. Heat until lukewarm. Pour into a large bowl. Stir in dissolved yeast and beaten eggs. Stir in flour with a wooden spoon until a soft dough forms. Turn dough out on lightly floured surface and knead about 5 minutes until smooth and elastic, sprink-



ling surface with flour if sticky. Put dough into a large greased bowl, turning to coat. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm draft-free place for one hour or until doubled.

Grease 32 2 1/2" muffin cups. For filling mix pecans, raisins, brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Punch down dough and divide in half. On a lightly floured surface, roll one half out to a 14x10" rectangle. Brush with half the melted butter and sprinkle with half the nut mixture. Roll up dough tightly lengthwise (swirl-roll style). Cut in 16 pieces. Arrange, cut-side down, in prepared muffin cups. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Let rise in warm place about 45 minutes or until doubled. Meanwhile heat oven to 375°F. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, until golden. Serve warm, store airtight 1 day or freeze up to 2 months.

## Sicily

## RICE BALLS

2 1/2 cups long-grain white rice

## MEAT SAUCE

8 ounces lean ground beef  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce  
1 1/2 cups freshly grated Parmesan or Romano cheese  
8 cups vegetable oil (for deep-frying)  
Whites from 2 large eggs  
1/2 cup packaged seasoned bread crumbs

Cook rice to make 8 cups worth. Meanwhile cook ground beef, onion and garlic 10 minutes in a medium-size pan over medium heat, stirring to break up beef, until meat is lightly browned, and onion translucent. Stir in tomato sauce, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally until thickened. Remove from heat. Cool slightly.

In a large bowl, mix warm rice and margarine until melted. Stir in cheese; mixture should be sticky. (Can be done up to 2 days ahead and refrigerated.) Line a tray with waxed paper. Using a medium-size ice-cream scoop, place leveled scoops of rice mixture on prepared tray (you should have 24). Now shape 12 rice balls one at a time (each ball is formed of two scoops). Hold one scoopful flat side up in your left hand and make a small indentation in

center with right thumb. Fill indentation with 2 teaspoons meat sauce. Cover with a second scoop of rice, flat side down, and press together to form a ball. 1421. fit oil in an electric deep fryer to 375°F. Beat egg whites in a small bowl. Put bread crumbs on a sheet of waxed paper. Roll rice balls in egg whites to coat, then in bread crumbs. Fry balls 6 at a time, 2 to 3 minutes until golden. Remove with slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Reheat remaining meat sauce and serve on the side. If you'd rather not deep-fry right before serving time, fry the rice balls up to 3 days ahead, and cover and refrigerate. Bake on a tray 20 to 25 minutes in a 350°F oven until golden and crisp.

## Scotland

## HELENSBURGH FUDGE

1/2 cup butter or margarine  
4 cups granulated sugar  
1 cup water  
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Lightly grease a 15 1/2 x 10 1/2" baking tin. Have ready a small bowl of cold water. Melt butter in a 4- to 5-quart pot. Stir in sugar and water, then milk. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil 10 to 15 minutes, without stirring, until candy thermometer registers 234°F to 241°F (soft-ball stage) or when a small amount dropped into the bowl of cold water forms a soft ball that flattens when removed from water. (If heat and vanilla, without stirring. When just cool and "skin" forms over top of mixture, stir with a wooden spoon until thick, and paler. Pour into prepared pan. Chill until firm. Break into bite-size pieces. Store airtight in a cool place, up to 2 months.

## England

## SHERRY TRIFLE

1/2 cup granulated sugar  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 large egg  
2 cups milk  
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1 small sponge cake layer or Italian finger biscuits  
1/2 cup cream sherry or orange juice  
10 oz fresh raspberries or 1 package frozen raspberries in syrup  
3 cups whipped cream

Prepare a large clear-glass trifle dish or bowl. For custard: In a medium-size saucepan, mix sugar, cornstarch and salt; stir in egg, then slowly whisk in milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring often. Boil 1 minute or until thickened. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Let cool to warm. To assemble trifle, line bottom and sides of dish with half the cake slices or biscuits. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup of the sherry and half the raspberries if using fresh, all if using frozen. Pour warm custard over berries. Top with remaining cake. Sprinkle with re-

maining sherry. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight. To serve, top with whipped fresh cream and sprinkle with remaining fresh berries.

## France

## CHOCOLATE ORANGE BON BONS

1 cup butter  
1 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 egg yolk  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup cocoa  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup chopped candied orange peel  
1 egg white, slightly beaten  
1 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350°C. In large bowl, cream butter. Gradually add sugar; beat until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla and egg yolk. Combine flour, cocoa and salt; blend into creamed mixture. Stir in orange peel. Shape tablespoons of dough into small balls. Dip top of each ball into egg white, then into nuts. Place balls, nut-side-up, on lightly buttered baking trays. Bake cookies 10 to 12 minutes; cool on wire racks. Makes 6 dozen.

## Sweden

## SPRITZ COOKIES

1 cup butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 350°. In large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and extracts. Gradually blend in flour. Using a biscuit cutter, form "S" shapes on ungreased baking trays.

Bake cookies 8 to 10 minutes; cool on wire racks. Makes about 7 dozen cookies. Note: Do not chill dough; it must be used at room temperature. If dough is too soft, blend in an additional 1 to 2 tablespoons flour.

## Russia

## BON-BONS

1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup regular, quick or instant (uncooked) cream of wheat cereal  
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Confectioners' sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. In large bowl, beat butter and granulated sugar until creamy. Beat in flour and cream of wheat cereal until well blended. Stir in walnuts and vanilla. Roll dough into 1-inch balls and place on greased baking trays. Bake 15 to 18 minutes, or until lightly golden. Cool slightly. While still warm, roll in confectioners' sugar. Cool completely on wire rack. Makes about 3 dozen bon-bons.



## Eagle Distilleries Co. A major Jordanian manufacturing and exporting base for Jordan

The late Entrepreneur Mr Muthieb Haddad had been involved in various businesses for the past four decades.

Yet, one of his biggest accomplishments is the Eagle Distilleries, bearing no.3 registration number in the Registrar of Companies. Mr Haddad once said that hard work and concentration on quality products were responsible for making the image of his corporation into one of the best in this country.

The corporation is involved in three major industries: The production of dry ice, the making of medical and industrial alcohols, and thirdly the manufacture of quality liquor and alcoholic beverages.

Dry ice is a by-product resulting from the fermentation of carbon dioxide. The company pursues its objectives of obtaining the best quality by using the most sophisticated machinery needed for the process. Thus, the outcome results in the making of 99.98% pure dry ice. A fact that

jet fighters, refineries, or even in steel welding. However, a special feature of dry ice is that it can be used at temperatures reaching as low as minus 80 degree centigrade to preserve food. It is used by Royal Jordanian air fleet.

The company is credited for its competence in producing such needed materials.

Ethyl alcohol is considered the building unit in the making of alcohols, whether medical or industrial, and since the company produces both varieties with respect to the purities needed in each field, medical alcohols are being produced 100% pure and free from aldehyde.

They are distributed in the country's hospitals, pharmacies, military camps and are used by Royal Medical Services establishments.

In the case of industrial alcohol, the purity ranges from 92%-95% and they are aldehyde free too. These are sold to various

industrialized corporations throughout the country.

The company gives a great deal of attention to its liquor manufacturing as well. French and British experts worked with the corporation since its

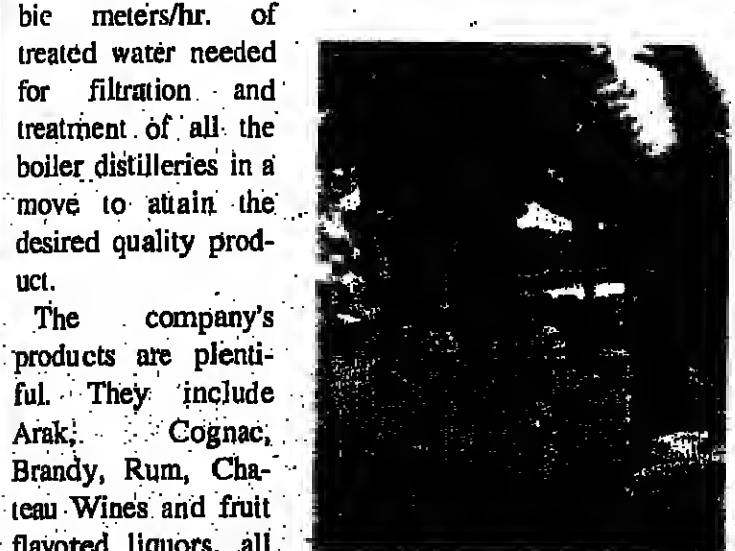
to in terms of Alcoholic Beverages Specifications that are set by the Bureau of Food and Drugs in various nations that these liquors are exported to. Exports in the past years to neighboring Arab countries like Egypt and Iraq has proven successful as well

Only the finest materials are applied in the manufacturing of liquors. As previously mentioned, 96% of purified alcohol is used. A special Raw Water Treatment Plant was set to ensure the removal of all the impurities from the hard water into becoming a free calcium and magnesium soft water. The output is used as a solvent for alcohol to speed up the process of liquor manufacturing, in addition to the French Station by Wan Sol with the capacity of 35 cubic meters/hr. of treated water needed for filtration and treatment of all the boiler distilleries in a move to attain the desired quality product.

The company's products are plentiful. They include Arak, Cognac, Brandy, Rum, Chateau Wines and fruit flavored liquors, all of which stand as a clear example of the company's remarkable achievements in improving the liquor industry in Jordan. The company is a licensed manufacturer of products by British Bartels Rawlings Ltd, Douglas Laing Ltd, and

Ben Steward Group and of the French Robert Dupin. These products include Scotch, Gin, Vodka, Napoleon Cognac and Brandy along with other varieties. It is worth mentioning that the company's Arak is such a reputable product among Arab migrants in the United States. That is why the company had established several distributing agencies in major American states. Company sales progressed over the years, when the products proved

their quality and gained the trust of the consumer, major project expansions is underway to mark the corporation's real success in the actual level in providing the best products to discerning people.



made the company the only acknowledged dry ice producer whose products are allowed to be used in Jordan.

The great importance of dry ice comes from its different applications, whether in surgical operations,

founding to train personnel in order to manufacture world class beverages according to the highest standards. Continuous research and tough quality control measures which the company undertakes had brought world recognition

as exports to the USA. Today, the company is eyeing Eastern Europe as a prime market for the near future. Although recently, experimental trials have been achieved in small scale orders to Poland and Romania.



**HLQASH GARDEN**

*New year's Breakfast*

Your celebration doesn't end at the New Year's party. HLQASH GARDEN extends your festivities to a grand breakfast buffet right after your New Year's party. Buffet opens at 5.00 a.m. Wishing you all a happy 1993.

Shirazi  
Opposite Peking Restaurant  
Tel: 668140 - 668712



## Jordanians at Christmas: Brotherly love, respect and recognition

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to The Star

THE EXCITEMENT of Christmas and its festivities has been creeping up on us now since the beginning of December. Decorative ribbons, lavish garlands, glittering ribbons and trinkets adorn artificial pine trees displayed in shop windows — regardless of whether the shop owner is Christian or Muslim.

In a sense, this is touching example of mutual love, respect and appreciation between a Muslim majority and a Christian minority, and can be recognized on all levels of Jordanian society. As Jordan's Muslims and Christians live amongst one another, their relationships are strengthened by reciprocal care, regard and responsibility. Their children play together, go to the same schools and share the excitement and joys of each others' festivities.

This week The Star met with students from the New English School (NES), teachers and par-



ents, during their Christmas Carol Concert, which is traditionally held annually in all NES branches in the Middle East. The NES is one of many schools in Amman where both Christian and Muslim students live and study together and pay equal tribute to the two faiths' traditions, enriching the school's social life and teaching the children how to recognize and respect differences.

"Christmas is the most exciting part of the season to me," said Edwina Issa, head of the school's performing arts department. "The students are very active in preparing and exchanging Christmas cards, decorating the corridors and classrooms and working on calendars." She also referred to the "uniqueness" of Jordan's culture, where Muslims and Christians cohabit, respecting each

other's identity. For tenth-grader Michael Salman, Christmas is a lot of fun because it brings the family together to share love, care and to support each other. "Many people think that Christmas is all about getting presents and eating," he said, "but that is exactly what it is not supposed to be. Christmas is about sharing love and concern for others."

"I am a Muslim, but I like Christmas a lot," said Samia Kilani, a ninth-grader who participated in the carol choir. She also said that her family decorates a tree every year and visits their Christian friends to wish them a merry Christmas.

More than 160 students sang together at the concert. The GCSE

Continued on page 19



Christmas  
special  
Section

### What's on at the Marriott this Christmas

● The Marriott Hotel will be buzzing with activities over the whole Christmas season. As of 6 December bells will start ringing in its main lobby, while The Christmas Bells Choir will be performing Christmas carols from the 19th to the 23rd. From 14 December, come and enjoy a drop of Eggnog or Gluewein, while listening to carols played by the Marriott's pianist.

Their annual children's Christmas party will take place on 19 December, from 4 to 6 pm. From 16 to 23rd December Christmas office parties will be held in the Rababa Nightclub, with a special menu, Santa Claus, live music and belly dancer.

For those intending to eat out on Christmas Eve, there will be a six-course dinner in Al-Walima Restaurant and a dinner buffet in Al-Mansaf Restaurant. For Christmas day, a nine-course lunch buffet is available.

New Year's Eve can be celebrated at the Al-Mansaf and Al-Walima Restaurants. In the nightclub or by the Marriott's indoor pool, each event having a different style to suit your individual taste.

It is worth noting that the Marriott's patisserie will also be open selling special Christmas treats such as Buche de Noel, Stollen, Profiteroles and Trifle.



## What's in a gift...?

By a Star Staff Writer

THIS YEAR, will you get exotic lingerie or something for the kitchen — again? And if you do, what does it say your partner thinks about you? For believe it or not, presents speak volumes about your relationship.

Last year the fiancé of a friend of mine spent several hours choosing a Christmas gift for his loved one — a long, glamorous, pink silk nightgown covered with large embroidered flowers. "He was very embarrassed going into the shop," explains his sympathetic fiancée Rughad. "He didn't know my size and had to point to women going past the window and say, she's that shape! He put a lot of thought into buying it."

The only problem is, Munn hates the nightgown. "It's disgusting, but I would never take it back or throw it away," she says. She doesn't want to hurt her fiancé's feelings because she knows that the present he buys her shows her that he cares.

"They're very romantic even when I don't like them!" she laughs. But is it true that when your partner buys you luxurious nightwear or expensive perfume it shows that he loves you passionately? Or if he gives you a dull and boring present he is taking you for granted?

Some women believe that we can read a lot into the presents that men buy for them, arguing that presents can reveal a lot about a man's feelings. Rughad agrees. "If he buys something light-hearted, that suggests that he sees the relationship in the same way. If he gives you a boring, domestic present then he's the kind of man that believes that a woman's place is in the home."

Maha, 28, was very disappointed when her husband, Iyad, bought her a food processor for her birthday. "I would have preferred something for me," says Maha. "I think he didn't know what to buy, and didn't realize that I wanted something personal."

But Maha argues that if you're receiving presents that aren't right, it's up to you to say what you want. "If he's giving you practical presents, the chances are you married that man because he was down-to-earth and sensible. You can't have both!" she says.

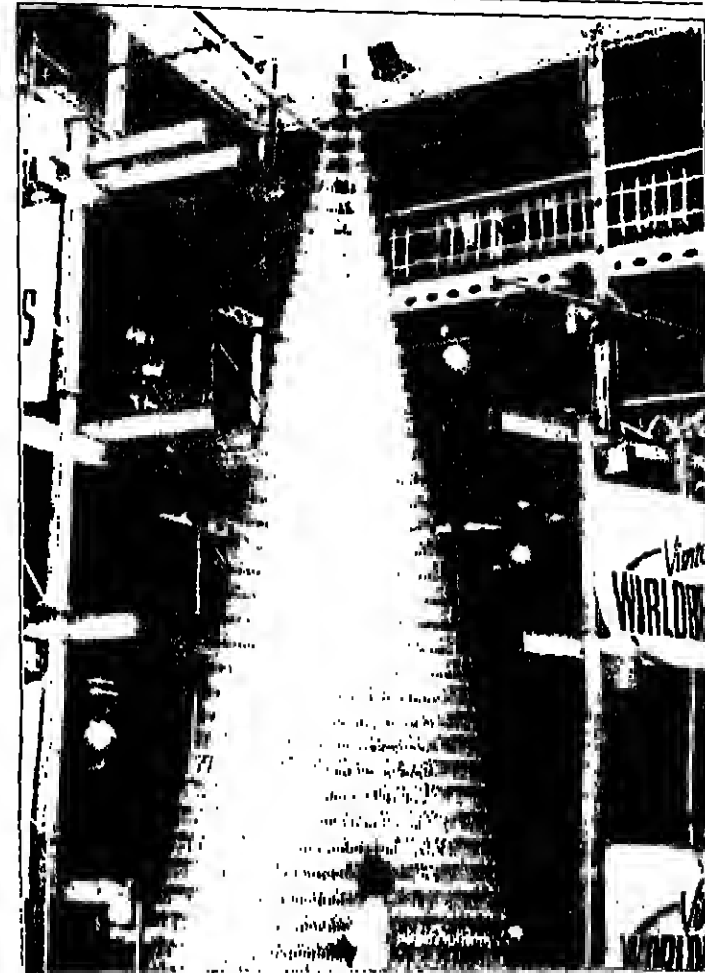
It seems that there is a funda-

mental difference between men and women when it comes to present-buying. "Men don't spend as much time listening, or put in as much thought as women do," suggests Saad, 34. "If he gives you pots and pans, then it's not that he doesn't love you but that he isn't very romantic!"

Saad has learned to tell her husband Muhammad exactly what she wants for gifts. "He

tries very hard," she admits, "but it's never quite what I'm looking for. Now I write a list for him; it's less romantic but he's quite relieved because he knows I'm fussy!"

But after 15 years of marriage, Saad knows that she'll always be guaranteed a surprise every now and again, and even though the results sometimes can be terrible, her determined husband puts in plenty of thought and effort.



### World record for champagne glass Christmas tree

● A team of engineering students are huddling over with enthusiasm after having broken the new world record for a champagne glass Christmas tree.

More than 16,000 champagne glasses were used in building a sparkling 25 feet 5 inch tower, shattering the previous record of 10,404 glasses set in the USA in 1984.

The method and the target for the attempt was determined by computer analysis. Details follow: Number of glasses: 16,215; number of levels: 45; weight: 2.1 tonnes; base area: 9ft 4in.

The President of British soft drinks company 'Vimto', Mr John Nichols, put the last glass in place and added a few drops of his favorite tipple.

### Christmas fun, Plaza style

● FOR THOSE who prefer a little romance, the Plaza Hotel is offering a four-course candlelit Christmas Eve dinner at its Andalusia Restaurant this year. Christmas Day lunch can be taken at the coffee shop with the whole of the family, with a special buffet, Santa Claus and presents, giving a festive Christmas atmosphere.

As for New Year's Eve at the Plaza, the Andalusia Restaurant is serving a sophisticated eight-course dinner, which will allow you to enjoy the finest food, great music and dancing.

This can be continued with the Plaza's first breakfast of the year, from 4 to 11 am, with champagne and live music.



"At least it shows that he cares for me!" she says. "And if I don't like the gift, I certainly appreciate the gesture."

What a Christmas gift can tell you

PERFUME: If this is your favorite — then it's romantic as it suggests you're physically close. But if it's the first thing he saw — it's a cop-out.

JEWELRY/CLOTHES: He wants you to look good — and takes pride in you.

BOOKS: If he's gone out of his way to find the latest best seller, then this needn't be boring, it shows he's thoughtful.

CHOCOLATES: This does suggest a lack of imagination. It's very safe.

POTS AND PANS: This is a very practical gift — and shows he has a traditional view of the relationship.



CASSETTE/CD OF HIS FAVORITE MUSIC: This isn't a Christmas treat for you. He's gone and given you something he wants. He's selfish!



**HLQASH GARDEN**

**Xmas Brunch**

Enjoy the Xmas Carols while you explore our specially prepared Xmas Buffet at HLQASH GARDEN From 10.30 a.m. till 1.30 p.m.

A special Xmas present from Santa to your children. Wishing you & your family a Merry Xmas.

price: JD 5,000++ for Adults.  
JD 3,000++ for Children.

Garden  
Opposite Parking Restaurant  
Tel: 666140 - 666172

For information and reservation please call 660100



## Cooking the turkey: Get the timing right

Follow The Star's guide for success every time when roasting your Christmas turkey.

**COOKING:** Pre-heat the oven to 180°C/350°F, Gas 4. Weigh the bird and calculate the cooking time, to be ready 30 minutes before carving. This standing time allows the flesh to firm up, making it easier to carve. Spread with butter, and season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Wrap loosely in foil and

place in a large roasting tin. Cook for the calculated time, basting occasionally. Remove foil about 45 mins before end of cooking time to allow skin to brown and become crisp.

**TESTING:** Insert a fine skewer into a turkey thigh. If the juices run clear, it is sufficiently cooked. If they are still tinged with pink you will need to cook it far longer until done.



Oven-ready weight	Approx thawing	Cooking (if not wrapped)	Approx no of servings
550g-1.4kg (11/4-3lb)	4-10 hrs	13/4-2 hrs	2-4
1.4-2.3kg (3-5 lb)	10-15 hrs	2-2 1/2 hrs	4-6
2.3-3.6kg (5-8lb)	15-18 hrs	2 1/2-3 1/2 hrs	6-10
3.6-5kg (8-11lb)	18-20 hrs	3 1/2-4 hrs	10-15
5-6.8 kg (11-15lb)	20-24 hrs	4-5 1/2 hrs	15-20



## Christmas treats from around the world

### Buche de Noel

This creamy mocha or chocolate cake roll, shaped like a log, is France's best known and most festive holiday dessert. It is always served at Réveillon, the feast that begins after midnight mass on Christmas Eve. The cake symbolizes the huge yule log that was dragged home from the forest on Christmas Eve to spark the holiday spirit. Cakes baked in the shape of a Yule log are also popular in England and Italy; the Italians call it *Ceppo Di Natale*.

### Marzipan

It is believed that the Crusaders brought this almond-flavored confection to Italy from the Middle East in the form of sweet coins. Marzipan was first prepared and sold by apothecaries as *Kraftbrot* or "power bread" and was reputed to cure assorted ills, including insomnia.

It is a popular custom in Denmark to have marzipan parties shortly before Christmas. Invited guests are given marzipan and decorating ingredients — colored sugars, sprinkles, candies, chocolates, nuts, dried fruits and shredded coconut, and are encouraged to let their imaginations run riot. Generous servings of *aquavit* (a Scandinavian alcoholic liqueur) are distributed to keep the party merry.

### Wassails

Toasting each others' health with wassails — the hot spicy ales drunk at Christmas — is a holiday custom from England. The word *wassail*, which comes from the old Norse "vas heill", means good health. The tradition dates back to medieval times when the warming brew was prepared to greet the revelers who dragged the Yule log home from the woods on Christmas Eve.

Old-fashioned wassails were flavored with a bread toast, and, according to tradition, the person who was served the toast was blessed with good fortune for the coming year. Everyone wanted to be "lucky enough to drink a toast."

Available in all pharmacies

The Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co. Ltd.  
Sole - Jordan

## DERMAGE 1 DERMAGE 2 SHAMPOO

ANTI-DANDRUFF AND MAINTENANCE



### Dermage 1

#### Anti-Dandruff Shampoo

The only shampoo which possesses **antioxidative and antimicrobial** properties necessary to treat dandruff and prevent its formation.

**Proteins and conditioners are added to restore hair vitality** and improve the handling characteristics of the hair fibers.

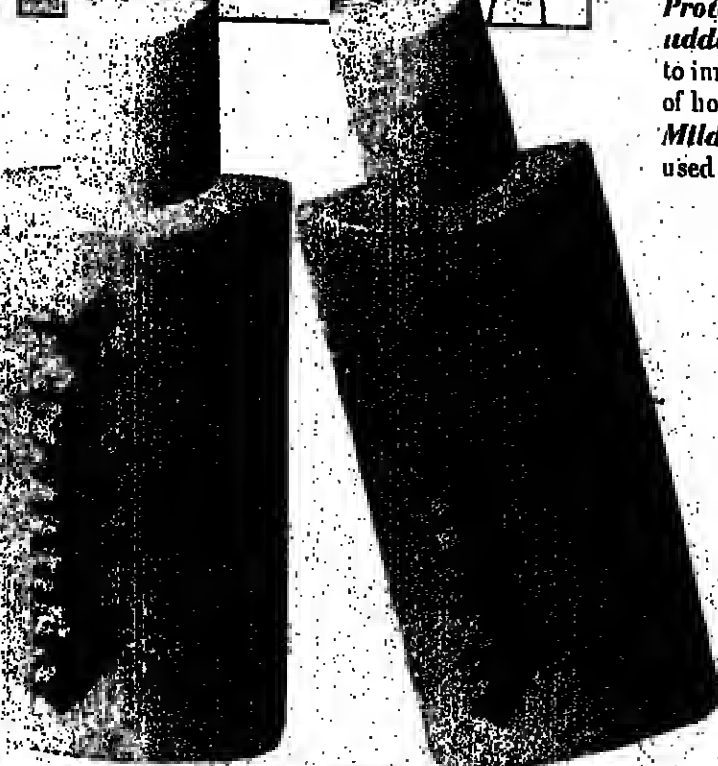
### Dermage 2

#### Hair Care Shampoo

A well balanced formula containing all the necessary elements to keep your hair dandruff free and healthy.

**Proteins and conditioners are added to restore hair vitality** and to improve the handling characteristics of hair fibers.

**Mild and gentle.** Dermage 2 can be used as often as desired.



You will soon feel the difference.

## Amman Plaza Hotel, excellence with elegance

"Your business is our pleasure," says Charles Barker, new General Manager at the Amman Plaza Hotel, where innovation, creativity and change are just part of the new image put out. "These are exciting and challenging times," says Barker, "not just for tourism in Jordan but particularly for The Plaza."

"The Plaza is Amman's newest hotel and should be leading the field," he adds. From the way he

is running the business, this is no idle boast and it is with a sense of inevitability that this prediction seems assured.

The hotel now offers many new services, facilities and entertainment and a wide variety of shows, dinner theaters and special events have already taken place under Barker's pace-setting direction. Plans for next year include the development of a Tennis Club, Executive Floor and an exciting modern pub bar (with real ale too!).

Meanwhile, nothing has been spared to provide the international traveler and the local community with the ultimate in quality and comfort. As you step into the air conditioned interior of the hotel lobby, you enter into a new world — where only the best is enough. All 285 elegantly furnished guest rooms are spacious with individual control air conditioning, separate dressing area with ample cupboard space, lounge area, color television, in house video and a choice of cable TV network programs and a mini bar. The hotel also offers 35 lavishly furnished and Deluxe suites, two superb Presidential suites and two extensive Royal suites containing an exclusive range of luxurious amenities.

For moments of relaxation and dining, the Plaza has a dazzling wealth of possibilities to suit every mood and taste.

The Al Nadeem Lobby Lounge Bar offers an ideal ambience for meeting friends and business associates.



The Caffee Shop serves an abundant buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner with extensive menus featuring local and international favorites. For the adventurous gourmet, the Thousand And One Nights Arabian Restaurant provides the perfect combination of superb Arabic cuisine and first class entertainment. The Andalusia Restaurant, with its elegant furnishing and friendly atmosphere, offers an exciting selection of continental dishes for both lunch and dinner and an equally versatile entertainment program, guaranteeing a wonderful dining experience. For something different, you can venture into the enchanting world of China Town, the hotel's latest addition to its food and beverage facilities, to experience the delights of authentic Chinese specialties. So whether you hanker after the mystical East, the lushness of Andalusia or simply luxury in superbly serviced rooms, the Plaza will suit your every need — truly a hotel of excellence and elegance.



## Al Qasr celebrates its first Christmas

In Al Qasr, many different activities are being held this Christmas. Besides having their normal outlets and their normal operations — the Fakhir El Din, Cellar and Al Qasr Garden restaurants — it will be holding special parties.

Parties so far have included a farewell party held in The Cellar for the Japanese Embassy and a dinner party held in Fakhir El Din for Minister of Tourism Mr. Yamil Hikmat.

Besides these, other birthday engagements and even small wedding parties have been held in all of our outlets.

An added feature of our hotel is that it offers brunch every Friday in Al Qasr Garden, where guests can enjoy a rich buffet and live guitar music in the morning.

This year, the hotel will be celebrating the first Christmas after its renovation. In The Cellar, we will be holding a jazz and rock night on Christmas Eve, with special Christmas dishes.

On Christmas day we will hold our Christmas Brunch in Al Qasr Garden with a wide variety of dishes. Santa Claus will also be there, visiting the kids with presents. So visit Al Qasr and enjoy our services.

## How Jordanians celebrate Christmas

Continued from page 16

drama students, most of them Muslims, prepared dramatic improvisations to the Christmas songs. Their plays were independent productions and carried messages of love, family affinity and support as the ultimate values for a Christmas gathering.

A group of Christian students described Christmas as a special time, because it is the day that everybody remembers the birth of Jesus Christ. One student commented, "People pray to Him and thank Him for being in their souls," quoting the words of the song: Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay! Close by me for ever and love me, I pray! Bless all the dear children in thy tender care! And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

After the concert, a group of English teachers shared their Christmas memories of Jordan. They all agreed on how wonderful their experiences had been, sharing with the Jordanian people with mutual respect and without interference. Most of them are married to Jordanian Muslims and are extremely happy to say that their husbands' families share Christmas with them, as much as they participate in Muslim occasions. Mrs. Issa contributed a story about her husband, where half of the residents are Christians and the other half Muslims, including the family of the Sheikh who lives above her. "We have lots of fun together because we celebrate all the occasions of the year," she said. "So who could be happier than our children, who get so much love and attention from everybody?"

For Mr. Milar Nagel, this has been his third year in Jordan, and he stressed that he is glad to get away from the commercial fuss which dominates Christmas in the West. "Being far away from it, I am now in a better position to understand the real meaning of Christmas," he said.

## CHRISTMAS 1992

Bohe in a crib of destitution stark  
I'm alive says his piercing cry  
Month hunting for life sustenance in the dark  
Nipple hurting but the breasts are dry

Angels' singing on high echo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo  
The inconsolable wail rings thru the night  
Who in the whole wide world'll heed his plight

God is born in Palestine  
God is born in Iraq  
God is born in Somalia  
God is born in Bosnia

An unholy silence in the night  
The wail is heard no more  
In the starving mother's arms  
The child is dead

Guilty, Guilty, Guilty the call  
Governments, the UN, The Vatican and all  
His mission prematurely aborted  
Salvation forfeited, redemption denied  
We have killed the child...

Guilty by commission  
Guilty by omission  
Bystanders there are none  
We stand condemned  
For letting this happen

Sorry poor mother mild  
Bury your dear child  
You will soon follow  
It's Christmas, I've to go.

David Anthony is a Malaysian poet

## Another Surprise From

# ISTIKLAL LIBRARY for X - Mas only

20 % discounts on all products  
except stationery items . . .

Products to be discounted are :

Toys, Games, Books,  
Cards, Gifts,  
Fancy Stationery, Arts Supplies

Buy Early to Avoid Disappointment . . .

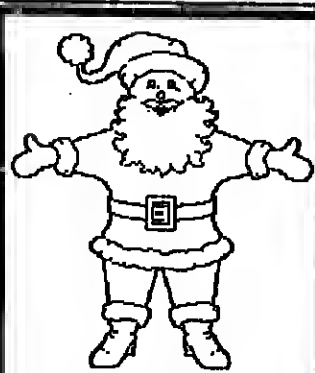


٢٠٪ خصم  
على الألعاب  
والهدايا والكتب  
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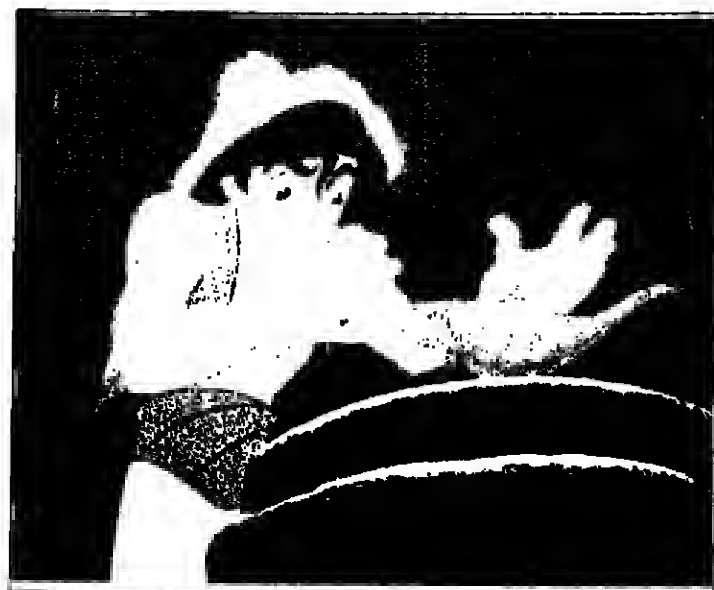
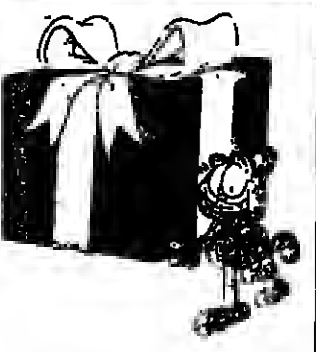
المكتبة  
الاستقلالية  
للحرف والفنون  
والترتبات

المكتبة / طابق اول مبنى المكتبة / ١١٢٢٠  
العمادة / المبنى الجديد / ١١٢٢٠





## Christmas special Section



Aladdin and his magic lamp

## Just in time for Christmas: Genie-us Disney!

JUST IN time for Christmas, the Disney Animation team has taken yet another magic story and transformed it into a new children's cartoon classic, 'Aladdin', adapted from the classic 1001 Nights, is the 31st animated feature film for writer John Musker and director Ron Clements after 'The Little Mermaid', with five new songs by the late Howard Ashman set to music by Alan

Menken. 600 artists and technicians worked on the story of the little boy who meets a wishful genie and a power-hungry vizier, a story full of humor and romance where one finds all the magic of Arabia combined with Disney's creativity. After 'Beauty and the Beast', it is the sixth adaptation of a world famous tale, and will surely be another huge success for the Disney Studio. ■

## A happy Christmas for you and your pet

WITH CHRISTMAS being only a week away, now is a good time to think about how you can make the holiday a merry and safe one for your pets. Unfortunately, the Christmas season carries several possible hazards for household animals, but following *The Star's* Dos and Don'ts Checklist will secure a fun and tear-free Christmas.



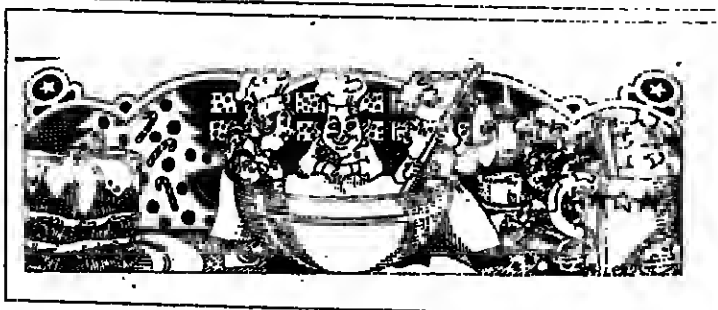
— Avoid the dangers of holiday plants and lighting: Mistletoe berries are very poisonous if consumed by a pet. Poinsettias (red petalled Christmas flowers) and holly berries also can upset their stomachs, though to a lesser degree. Keep them out of the animal's reach. Wires for Christmas tree lights can be very tempting to chew on for kittens and puppies. You can well imagine the possibly shocking results! Therefore, keep all such wires securely out of reach.

— Cross pets off your gift list: There are many reasons to avoid giving a cat, dog, kitten or puppy as a Christmas present.

Introducing a pet into a strange, new environment is extremely stressful for a small animal. And what with the rumpus and excitement of the holiday season, the

new owner may be unable to give the pet the attention it needs to adapt.

Never give a pet as a gift to anyone, especially not a child, unless you're certain the pet will be cared for. This means not just for the moment, but for its entire life. Children usually lose a good deal of enthusiasm for a dog when they learn they must walk it regardless of the weather, feed it, clean and groom it. What is more, the novelty can certainly wear off once the tiny, cuddly puppy has grown into a fierce, demanding full-size adult. Giving a pet to an adult as a "surprise" Christmas gift could be equally unsuccessful in the long run. ■



## You and your child: Christmas-time is party-time!

CHILDREN LOVE parties, and indeed many expect to have a party for their birthdays and other selected occasions — Christmas included. Throwing a child's Christmas party need not be expensive (though of course, it can be), but it will require special planning. What follows are *The Star's* special guidelines for throwing the most successful party for children aged 6 and over, since the rules are different for younger children, who have shorter attention spans.

First, the party should be scheduled to last about four hours. To be courteous to parents, send invitations (or call) with specific starting and ending times so that kids can be collected promptly. Afternoon or early evening is the best time to hold such a party.

If you'd like, an outing — to a movie, a play or the skating rink, for example — can be planned, or you could consider in-home entertainment such as a puppet show. If neither is appealing to you or the guest of honor, special games can be played. If you

choose this last option, be sure to have enough games to keep the troops entertained.

Decorations can be simple and inexpensive: For about JD5 you can get plenty of balloons and crepe-paper streamers to create a festive atmosphere in your home. The true expense is food, yet because of children's tastes, even that can fit into the tightest of budgets. Pizza, sandwiches, chips and stuff to munch on should suffice.

Gifts can be opened before the food is served. However be sure to coach your child into being gracious and thanking each child for his or her gift as they are opened. Also, warn your child that his or her guests will most likely want to play with any new toys and that these guests should be allowed to do so.

Finally, don't forget that the guests should receive party favors: a small toy (which you can make, if you're creative, and handy) or something sweet to take home should be fine. ■

## A sneak preview of what 1993 designers have in store for you



Delirious Ozbek

\* Together on the catwalk for Ozbek's new collection were supermodels Naomi Campbell, Helena Christensen and Linda Evangelista. The presentation included black and white checks and stripes, voluminous necklines, crazy hats and a myriad of embroidered details and lace. Ozbek showed very creative pointed vests, baggy trousers and shorts, revealing a touch of ingenuity in a very different collection.



No surprises with  
Emporio Armani

■ In the glare of the spotlights at the new Emporio Armani collection were mostly long clothes; trousers and dresses, pastel colors and white and black. No big surprises, but there were a few exceptions: Blue flowered bermuda shorts over trousers, long split skirts over trousers. The traditional black evening dress was there, also featured in checked material. A little bit of exoticism was found with soft colored caps, but few accessories.



Blue Marine Lolita

● For Blue Marine, next year's summer will be cool in every way! Along with long and fluid skirts and tops, with 1970s-style pearl necklaces, one finds oar, short gingham skirts and shorts. Hair is worn long with white tulle outfits that are as delicate as lingerie. The Blue Marine collection is at the same time eclectic and very imaginative.



Master Ferre

\* Gian Franco Ferre's latest collection features the elegance of asymmetrical, colorful jackets, brown leather and horizontal draperies. Clothes are fitted close to the body, with very feminine tailored trouser suits, neutrally-colored or striped. All reveal stripes shorts and a great deal of deep warm brown. All reveal tremendous originality at a very different show, supervised by Mr Ferre.



Versace: Many  
possibilities

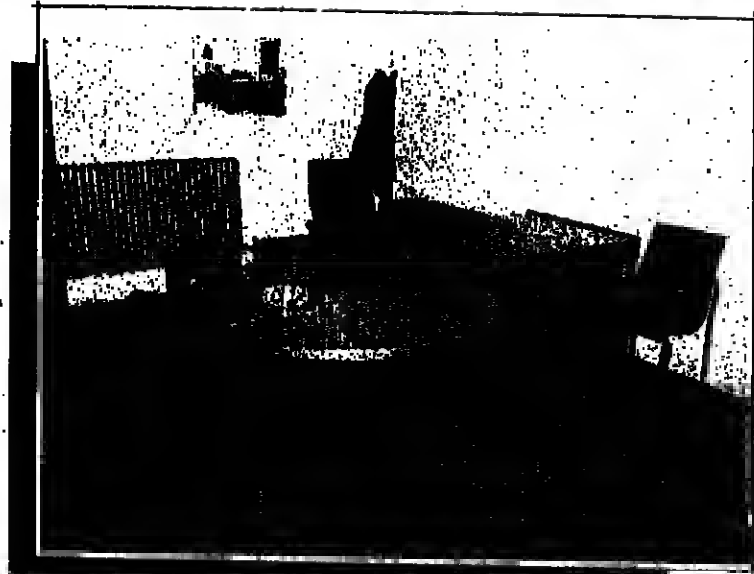
● For Versace, choice seems to be the keyword for both women and men! All the best models were there for his collection, wearing Versace's creations for the coming summer. Items included bell-bottomed trousers in solid colors, stripes and flowers, long hair and very distinctive necklines, showing and suggesting a bright, sunny summer!



The best from Armani

■ Armani will again be a symbol of elegance and sobriety next summer. Off-white, light blue or black are the colors for the smart-looking woman wearing tailored suit and pants, with striped, solid or flowery fabrics. Accessories and vests borrowed from the men's collection combine with long skirts and little caps, adding a great deal of style for real fashion know-how and pure elegance.

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# AROUND TOWN



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## Inspiration from within Jordanian painter seeks own 'melody ambience'

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to The Star

HIS EXHIBITION was called 'Melody Ambience'. Presented in the prevailing sentimental tones of blue ink and acrylic, the paintings of Adnan Al Sharif carry the impact of high sensitivity and refreshing colorful harmony.

While walking through the exhibition hall of the Phoenix Gallery, where Sharif's paintings were on display last month, one could feel the power of his internal world. The melody that emerged from his subtle brush strokes built refined, steady structures of highly artistic compositions that filled the hall with all kinds of rhythms, reaching the subconscious in the form of lyrical fables and epic symphonies.

"Every one of us has his own internal melody," said Sharif, who has participated in more than 33 collective exhibitions from Tokyo to Berlin, including six individual exhibitions all over the world. "I have discovered mine. All these are melodies of my internal ambience, and I hope that others can enjoy it like I do."

Sharif's paintings do not allude to the existence of dramatic tension in coordinating between his internal and external world, yet his paintings are full of chromatic contrasts, asymmetry, rhythmic constraints, disproportion of sizes and special order. These elements, however, fire tranquilizing effects, a sense of order and artistic equilibrium, as the final result of a successfully implemented artistic technique.

Sharif is an artist who paints on



canvas directly, without previous sketching and planning. He believes that it is the best way to establish spontaneous interaction between one moment of inspiration, while producing and externalizing it genuinely.

He is also prone to experimenting with different media such as crayons, ink, gouache, acrylic and chalk, searching for the closest combination in capturing the texture of the forms in his fantasies.

His paintings at the last exhibition were created mainly in ink and acrylic. It is obvious that the painter is familiar with the natural qualities of these materials, as they were beautifully incorporated into the compositions, obtaining powerful color effects and genuine harmony.

Although Sharif calls his last artistic stage "the stage of abstractionism", he still carries imprints of the previous phase he lived through over the past 15

years, which was defined as pure symbolism. He recalls this period as a time when canvas was for him another empty page where he transferred the beauty of a literary opus through illustrations in graphics or mix media technique. At that time he was also writing poems and short stories, which helped him synthesize his discipline into a figurative, symbolic fine art expression.

Today, Sharif has extended the creation process with another intermediary phase. He is still being carried by a strong, literary drive, but in order to introduce it onto canvas, he decomposes the ideas into musical tones of his internal ambience, and then restructures them again, fusing and combining materials into highly artistic mix media compositions. He calls this cycle "the translation of a person's past and present into a momentum of creative tension."

"Painting was never a photo of feeling for me. Yet, it is an unconscious resume of everything personal that was and is right now," Sharif said. After a short pause he added, "My melody ambience is my internal and external world playing together."

## 'Classic comedy... a night full of Goodies'

● "CLASSIC COMEDY... a laughter filled night of Goodies" is how The Telegraph described 'You Must Be the Husband', a comedy play that was featured this week at the Plaza Hotel. The play was 'brought in' to Jordan by British Airways and Royal Jordanian, and ran for three successful nights.

The play, produced by Derek Nimmo, features Tom and Alice Hammond, played by Tim Brooke-Taylor and Brigit Forsyth, who are well known acting personalities. The plot is about a married couple who lead an average suburban life in England. But catastrophe strikes when a mysterious parcel arrives one day, leading to aroused suspicions. Of course, Tom, the husband, is the lost to know of his wife's mischievous secret behind the parcel. He is suddenly curious when there are strange telephone calls and odd comments from neighbors. Tom is confronted with the truth when he realizes that his lovely placid house wife has written a provocative, sexy novel. He is faced with embarrassing remarks from neighbors, friends and even his boss, when they read the daring sex scenes, revolving around a housewife and a handsome hunk called Steve.

What heightens the problem is the appearance of Alice's financial adviser who exactly fits the descriptions in the book, and even worse, his name is Steve! Alice becomes an overnight millionaire, and Tom is suddenly faced with the fact that his wife has become the provider for their home. Needless to say, the ending is a happy one!

The play was delightful, and the night memorable, made even more so by the wonderful dinner provided by the Plaza. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fun with delightful food and a hefty dose of laughter.

The Plaza must be congratulated for its fine catering and this excellent performance. We hope that others will follow in the steps of the Plaza to provide our public with more memorable entertainment such as this.



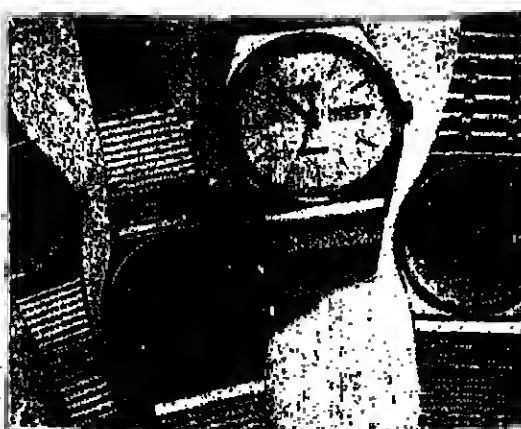
Tim Brooke-Taylor



● Mr Chawki Ayoub, General Manager of Hotel InterContinental Jordan, held a reception for all employees who participated in organizing the Wadi Rum air balloon rally. Certificates were given out to each and every one of the employees to express the management's appreciation and gratification for their participation.

● IN 1984, the PR 100 from Tissot was the official wrist-watch of the Austrian, West German and Swiss Olympic teams — a sure indication of the watch's unerring reliability under the toughest of conditions. The name of its latest quality feature is scratch-resistant sapphire crystal. It also features a battery end-of-life indicator.

The timeless elegance of the watch's design is another reason for its continuing popularity. It is available in three sizes, to-plato or bicolor stainless steel, with a matching bracelet. Many models also come with an elegant brown leather strap. The dial, finished in white or shimmering gold, are classic in design. All PR 100 models have sweep second, minute and hour hands with date display, while some also feature displays for the day of the week, month and phase of the moon. It is available from good watch retailers everywhere with a one-year Tissot warranty, valid in 125 countries of the world.



# The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on  
Jordan  
Television  
from  
19-25  
December

## ENGLISH PROGRAM

### SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos  
9:00 — Perspective  
9:30 — Saturday Variety Show  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Feature Film, 'Blind Judgement'. Starring Lesley Warren and Jean Smart. The events of this film were inspired by a true story that took place in 1987.

### SUNDAY

8:30 — Family Matters  
9:10 — National Geographic. 'The Miraculous Machine'.  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Law and Order

### MONDAY

8:30 — Step By Step  
9:10 — A Fine Romance  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — The Dismissal

### TUESDAY

8:30 — The Golden Girls  
9:30 — Mairiel  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Feature Film, 'The Ambassadors' Daughter'. Starring John Forsythe. A light comedy about identifying a man into marriage.

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved By The Bell  
9:00 — Spot Light

### THURSDAY

8:30 — Golden Girls  
9:10 — Civil Wars  
10:00 — News In English  
10:20 — Movie of the Week, 'The Story Lady'. Starring Jessica Tandy. The story of an elderly woman who brought the world's greatest children stories to millions of homes.  
11:10 — Pollat: 'The Nut Cracker'.

### FRIDAY

8:30 — Wings

## FRENCH PROGRAM

### SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Aventures du Bosco  
6:30 — Envoyé Spécial  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Fenêtre Sur  
DIMANCHE  
5:30 — Rêves D'Enfants  
5:40 — La Piste de Xapatan  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Le Journal de L'Histoire

### LUNDI

6:00 — Pif et Hercule  
6:30 — Papa Poule  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Magazine Sportif

### MARDI

6:00 — Michel Vaillant  
6:30 — La Famille Ramdam  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Variétés

### MERCREDI

6:00 — Les Ateliers du Reve  
6:30 — Cent Fleurs Pour La Chine  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Variétés

### JEUDI

5:30 — Imogene  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Les Images de L'Histoire

### VENDREDI

5:30 — Les Merisiers  
7:00 — News In French  
7:15 — Variétés

## Top Pop Albums

1. The Predator, Ice Cube, Priority
2. The Bodyguard, Soundtrack, Arista
3. Timeless (The Classics), Michael Bolton, Columbia
4. Unplugged, Eric Clapton, Reprise
5. Love Deluxe, Sade, Epic
6. Breathless, Kenny G, Arista
7. Automatic for the People, REM, Warner Bros.
8. Ten, Pearl Jam, Epic
9. Keep the Faith, Bon Jovi, Mercury



## Top Video Rentals

1. Far and Away, Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, MCA/Universal Home Video
2. Basic Instinct, Michael Douglas, Sharon Stone, Live Home Video
3. Beauty and the Beast, Animated, Walt Disney Home Video
4. My Cousin Vinny, Joe Pesci, Marisa Tomei, Fox Video
5. Batman Returns, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, Warner Home Video
6. The Cutting Edge, D.B. Sweeney, Mo'Nique, Kelly, MGM/UA Home Video
7. Thunderheart, Val Kilmer, Fred Ward, Columbia TriStar Home Video
8. Sister Act, Whoopi Goldberg, Harvey Keitel, Touchstone Home Video
9. Deep Cover, Larry Fishburne, Jeff Goldblum, Columbia TriStar Home Video
10. Beethoven, Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt, MCA/Universal Home Video

## Agenda

### FILMS

One of Disney's most memorable movies, 'Bambi' will be shown at the American Center on Thursday 17 December and also on Sunday 20 December. 'Cinderella' will follow on Wednesday 23 December. All films start at 3:00 pm.

As part of the Shakespeare festival at the British Council, a recent video production of 'Twelfth Night' will be shown on Saturday 19 December. Also on Monday 21 December, 'Macbeth' will be

the highlight of the evening. Following on Wednesday will be 'Jesus'. All films begin at 7:00 pm at the council premises.

The French Cultural Center will be offering yet another Marcel Carné movie entitled 'Jules ou la Clef des Songes' on Monday 21 December.

### RALLY

The Arab Insomniac Rally Tour, the last motor sporting event of the year, will be organized on Friday 18 December by the Royal Automobile Club. The event will feature a number of physically handicapped competitors, while all 250 fee entry fees will be donated to the Royal Society for the Physically Handicapped.

### EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of paintings by Samer Usama is currently showing at the French Cultural Center. The exhibition remains open until Wednesday, 23 December.

Currently showing at the Alia Art Gallery is an exhibition by Mahmoud Taha. It will stay open until 20 December.

The Star will co-sponsor the ArameX-mas quiz night on 19 December at the Plaza Hotel. The quiz will start at 8:00 pm. Tickets are for JD8.5 and are available at New York New York (605307), ArameX International Courier (603192), MEBA Ltd (65531), Plaza Hotel (674111) and Prestige (661503).

# HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



ARIES (21 March-19 April): A good week for travel. If you've been good all year, you'll clean up on Christmas!  
TAURUS (20 April-20 May): If you're traveling this week, watch out for unexpected costs. Re-establish old bonds.  
GEMINI (21 May-20 June): Traveling with a friend could involve hours of fascinating conversation.  
CANCER (21 June-22 July): You may still have a few things to do. Finish up regardless of the distractions!  
LEO (23 July-22 August): Excellent for romance, especial if there's adventure involved. Take a good friend on an excursion.  
VIRGO (23 August-22 October): Your house may be the center of activity. If so, try not to let it make you nervous. Things should calm down by the weekend.  
LIBRA (23 September-22 October): The week could be kind of confusing. There are short journeys and great conversations with siblings.  
SCORPIO (23 October-21 November): Your biggest concern will probably be financial! Don't spend more money than you have! An older person may teach you something.  
SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): If you throw a celebration to the winter solstice, it will be a grand success. You may feel growing pressure to spend.  
CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): Congratulations! The winter solstice marks the begging of your turn at bat! Keep your ear to the key hole.  
AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): You'll be lucky in love all this week. That's good, because some of it may be hectic.  
PISCES (19 February-20 March): You may feel like you're being pushed around a little. If you can keep your sense of humor, it won't be so bad.

# Dining Out



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# Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Activistes

## Hamas sur le sentier de la guerre

Pendant que les bilatérales se poursuivent à Washington, les activistes des T.O font entendre leurs arguments. Et attisent le cercle vicieux violence-répression

"JE SUIS déterminé à atteindre mon objectif: obtenir la paix et la sécurité pour Israël. Je crois que j'y arriverai, malgré la multiplication des attaques de ceux qui cherchent à arrêter les négociations de paix entre Israël et les Palestiniens" dit Yitzhak Rabin. Vieux pieux ou déclaration de principe? Ces propos du Premier ministre israélien semblent bien décalés par rapport au cycle infernal de la violence-répression. Haidar Abdel Chafi, le chef de la délégation palestinienne aux pourparlers bilatéraux ne s'y trompe pas. La première réunion israélo-palestinienne de la semaine s'est, selon lui, tenue à l'ombre des événements tragiques dans les territoires occupés.

### Semaine noire

En une semaine, deux patrouilles de l'armée israélienne ont été la cible de tirs embusqués sur les routes de Gaza et de Hébron. Quatre soldats ont été tués et deux autres blessés. Les intégristes du mouvement Hamas qui ont revendiqué l'opération, ont pris la fuite. Vendredi dernier, une voiture piégée a été découverte dans le parking d'un immeuble, en plein cœur de la partie juive de Jérusalem. La bombe a pu être désamorcée à temps.

Le corps du garde frontière armé, enlevé dimanche à une dizaine de kilomètres de Tel Aviv, a été retrouvé mardi en Cisjordanie. Ses ravisseurs, des membres du Hamas, qui réclamaient la libération de leur dirigeant spirituel, Cheikh Ahmad Yassin, ont été directement accusés par le Premier ministre israélien. Selon Yitzhak Rabin, "le sergent-major Toldado a été assassiné par l'organisation Hamas". "Si cela s'est passé, c'est parce qu'ils ont rejeté toutes nos propositions", a affirmé Yitzhak Rabin, porte-parole de Hamas à l'Arman.

Cette macabre découverte n'a fait qu'aggraver l'état de tension dans les territoires. Les autorités israéliennes ont procédé à 1.200 arrestations, 700 en Cisjordanie



Cheikh Ahmad Yassin, chef spirituel de Hamas

si 500 à Gaza.

"Cet enlèvement, perpétré à Lod, au cœur du territoire reconnu d'Israël, remet en question l'existence même de notre pays", écrivait lundi l'éditorialiste du quotidien israélien Yediot Aharonot. Et d'ajouter: "Nous avons le sentiment qu'il n'y a plus de règles, plus de pouvoir ni de gouvernement".

### Couvre-feu

Ces événements coïncident avec l'anniversaire de la création du mouvement de la résistance islamique Hamas (14 décembre 1987). Ce nom fait maintenant trembler tous les protagonistes des Israéliens aux rangs de l'O.L.P. Les actions de Hamas jettent même la place aux doutes, quant

à la véritable représentativité de la centrale palestinienne dans les territoires. Pour éviter d'éventuelles manifestations violentes, l'armée a imposé le couvre-feu sur la totalité de la bande de Gaza. Ses habitants étaient interdits de séjour en Israël depuis le 7 décembre. Ces mesures ont été étendues à la Cisjordanie, coupant du monde environ 1,8 millions de Palestiniens.

Le Premier ministre de l'Etat hébreu a rejeté la proposition faite par certains dirigeants israéliens, en faveur d'un retrait unilatéral de la bande de Gaza. "Ceci serait interprété comme une reddition au terrorisme et n'y mettrait pas un terme, mais au contraire l'intensifierait", a déclaré Rabin. C'est clair: Israël ne cède pas un centimètre de territoire

sans accord...

Des émeutes anti-arabes avaient déjà éclaté lundi soir dans la ville de Lod, à l'extrémité même de l'enlèvement. Des centaines d'Israéliens manifestaient tout en criant, se rassemblant à l'entrée du quartier arabe. Leurs cris: "Mort aux Arabes". Après la découverte du corps, des centaines d'Israéliens se sont rassemblés devant la maison de la famille Toldado, criant vengeance à l'encontre des Arabes.

Cette escalade inquiète vivement l'O.L.P. qui a demandé du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU une protection internationale des Palestiniens de Cisjordanie et de Gaza. Yasser Arafat Rabin, membre du comité exécutif de l'O.L.P. a dénoncé "le cycle de violence dont est victime le peuple palestinien qui n'a pas cessé depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir de Rabin". Un appel qui ne semble pas émouvoir le chef de la commission des Affaires étrangères et de la Défense de la Knesset. "Nous avons affaire à une véritable guerre et dans la lutte contre le terrorisme, il faut avoir recours aux renseignements et aux unités

spéciales de l'armée israélienne" a déclaré Uri Or.

A Washington, Elia Kim Robinson, chef de la délégation israélienne aux négociations avec Palestiniens et Jordaniens s'est montré plus réaliste. Robinson n'a pas hésité à qualifier les membres de Hamas de "terroristes", de "fous", "d'assassins". Notre but commun est de faire des progrès, car le seul moyen de parvenir à la paix est de négocier en dépit de la violence", a-t-il ajouté.

"Ces développements tragiques soulignent l'urgence d'une solution à l'affaire Humane", Achraf, porte-parole de la délégation palestinienne. Sur le front des négociations, les Israéliens ont remis lundi un document détaillé sur leur position quant au statut intermédiaire des territoires occupés. Le processus de paix suit son cours à Washington. A moins que Hamas, organisation farouchement hostile à sa poursuite ne parvienne à détourner les négociateurs de leur véritable but.

Michel Armand

FUTURE VICTIME ?



Conte de Noël

## La cage de verre sur un tapis volant

Cadeau de Noël du Jourdain: une page réservée aux plus jeunes d'entre nous. Un conte illustré par le peintre irakien Nadim!

Par Noël Favrelière

IL ETAIT une fois une petite fille qui s'appelait Daphné. C'est un joli nom grec qui veut dire laurier. Le laurier est cet arbuste aux belles feuilles d'un vert profond et qui sentent si bon qu'on les utilise pour parfumer les sushis, les ragouts et surtout les bons pâtés dorés.

Daphné avait sa maman, son papa et aussi un petit chien fox-terrier qui s'appelait Yacha. Daphné et Yacha vivaient comme s'ils étaient sœur et frère. Ils jouaient ensemble, mangeaient ensemble, mais Daphné à table avec une assiette et Yacha par terre dans une écuelle. Et toujours ensemble, ils finissaient de petites et même de grosses bêtises.

Daphné et Yacha avaient le même défaut: ils n'étaient pas obéissants. Maman ne permettait pas que Daphné et Yacha dorment ensemble. La petite fille devait dormir dans son petit lit de bois blanc et le petit chien devait dormir sur une couverture près de la cheminée du salon.

La nuit, Daphné se levait pour aller ouvrir la porte du salon et permettre à Yacha de venir dormir avec elle dans le petit lit de bois blanc. Le matin, sa maman était très fâchée de voir qu'il y avait des poils de Yacha sur les draps de Daphné. Et un jour, plus fâchée que d'habitude, elle décida que Yacha ne dormirait plus dans la maison, mais dehors dans une niche.

Papa avait donc fabriqué une jolie niche en bois pour Yacha, mais celui-ci refusait d'y entrer et restait dehors, même quand il pleuvait. Parce qu'il était gentil, le papa de Daphné avait donc fabriqué une autre niche, transparente cette fois, en utilisant des panneaux de plastique qui ressemblent à du verre. Yacha qui n'aimait pas l'odeur de la peinture et l'obscurité de la niche en bois, a bien voulu entrer dans cette niche transparente et sans odeur qui lui fit croire qu'il était encore dehors.

Mais la nuit venue, Daphné pleurait dans son lit et Yacha pleurait dans sa niche jusqu'à ce qu'ils s'endorment. Cela ne tardait pas, car ils étaient tous les deux fatigués d'avoir tant joué pendant le jour.

Un matin, un marchand de tapis ambulants vint proposer à maman de lui vendre un tapis pour orner son salon. Gentiment, maman lui dit qu'elle n'aimait pas les tapis aux couleurs trop criardes, tissés en laine, mais qu'elle préférait les vieux tapis tissés à la main.

Deux jours plus tard, le même marchand revint avec un très vieux tapis plein de trous qu'il offrit gratuitement à maman qui, pour le remercier, l'invita à déjeuner. Quand papa revint le soir et qu'il vit le vieux tapis troué, il s'en inquiéta.

"Le joli cadeau que voilà, dit-il, n'est sans doute un tapis volant qui a beaucoup voyagé?"



Dessus du peintre irakien Nadim

usé pour rester dans le salon, et ils décidèrent de le placer sous la niche pour servir de matelas à Yacha.

Cette nuit là, alors que sa maman et son papa dormaient, Daphné s'aidant d'une chaise, emboîta le rebord de la fenêtre de sa chambre pour se laisser glisser dans le jardin. Puis elle rejoignit Yacha qui dormait dans la niche transparente posée sur le vieux tapis.

Réveillé, surpris, ravi, Yacha jappa de joie. "Chut, tais-toi, lui commanda Daphné, tu vas les réveiller et on se fera gronder."

Yacha s'arrêta de japper et se mit à lécher les joues de Daphné, tandis que celle-ci le caressait. Blottis l'un contre l'autre, ils ne tardèrent pas à s'endormir.

La lune se leva, faisant briller quelques fils dorés comme des cheveux blonds que le vieux tapis d'avait pas encore perdu. Soudain, le vieux tapis se mit à frissonner comme la surface de l'eau quand passe un coup de vent.

Puis doucement, très doucement, il s'éleva du sol. Daphné et Yacha, toujours très endormis, ne s'apercevaient pas que le tapis les emportait toujours plus haut, toujours plus loin.

C'est le vrombissement d'un avion qui passait près du tapis qui les réveilla. Daphné et Yacha eurent d'abord très peur, peur de tomber surtout. Mais, très vite, ils s'habituaient à la situation.

Il n'était plus question de dormir... il y avait trop de choses à voir. Vues d'en haut, les lumières de la ville ressemblaient à des colliers de perles posés sur un velours sombre. Le tapis passa au-dessus de beaucoup d'autres villes, de villages, de forêts, de montagnes, de lacs...

Quand il fit jour, Daphné et Yacha accourus dans la niche transparente sur le tapis, survolaient un vaste pays qui semblait être l'Afrique. Parfois, le tapis volait haut et ils se trouvaient au milieu des milliers de flamands roses, aux ailes écarlates. Parfois, le tapis volait bas et Daphné pouvait au passage caresser le museau très doux des gentilles girafes.

Le tapis passa aussi au-dessus d'un troupeau d'éléphants qui levèrent la trompe pour saluer les deux libéristes. Déjà, à l'horizon, le soleil descendait pour disparaître derrière les montagnes. Fatigués de toutes ces merveilles qu'ils avaient éblouies, les yeux de Daphné et de Yacha se fermèrent pour dormir.

Quand Daphné rouvrit les yeux, elle était dans son petit lit et sa maman, penchée au-dessus d'elle, tenait Yacha dans ses bras pour l'empêcher de sauter sur les draps blancs.

Oh! Maman! s'écria Daphné en se frottant les yeux, si tu savais quel beau voyage nous avons fait Yacha et moi!

Ta sœur ma chérie



Mais non maman, nous étions dans la cage de verre de Yacha et le tapis volant nous a emmenés. Une cage de verre sur un tapis volant, dit maman en souriant. Mais le rêve, c'est justement ça! Dehors, un merle s'était mis à chanter et Daphné regardant vers la fenêtre s'aperçut que la chaise qui lui avait permis de sauter dans le jardin pour rejoindre Yacha était toujours là. Elle fut d'abord tentée de dire à sa maman: "Et si ce n'était qu'un rêve, pourquoi la chaise semblerait-elle encore là?"

Mais prudente et espiègle, elle se réint en se disant: "Ne donnons pas à maman une occasion de nous gronder."

Daphné ne dit donc rien, mais se jeta au cou de sa maman en faisant un clin d'œil à Yacha qui comptait tout de suite ce que cela signifiait: laissez toujours les grands croire qu'ils ont toujours raison... Ils aiment ça... et nous on n'en pense pas moins.

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L'EDITO

De Amine Chablou

### Représentativité

L'EXECUTION DU sous-officier israélien par les présumés activistes du mouvement intégriste Hamas, risque d'ouvrir la voie à la violence et à la contre-violence. Les territoires occupés sont à nouveau le théâtre des chantages des plus méprisables.

Le dialogue mené entre les protagonistes du conflit du Moyen-Orient est à nouveau menacé par le bras de fer Tshahal-Hamas. Le mouvement islamiste, déclaré hostile à l'actuel processus de paix, ne rate aucune occasion pour mettre des bâtons dans les roues.

Calcul précis: l'enlèvement et l'exécution du garde frontière israélien, au moment même où les négociations à Washington battent de l'aile. Reste à savoir si à long terme, le plan-piège de Hamas va marcher. La réponse est entre les mains de Rabin, le Premier ministre israélien.

Si l'Etat d'Israël tombe dans l'arabe, l'ensemble des pays arabes volera et autres, suivront. Et la thèse de la provocation qui aura engendré la violence, remportera la partie.

Hamas n'attend que l'escalade de la violence dans les T.O pour mélanger à nouveau les cartes et décrocher celle de la représentativité qu'elle dispute à l'O.L.P.

Les appels au calme et au contrôle se rajoutent à ceux lancés en faveur d'un dialogue direct O.L.P.-Israël. Ce dialogue confirmera la légitimité des uns et l'existence des autres.

La décision de George Bush de rencontrer les délégations israélienne et arabes, alors que les discussions stagnent, est un signe encourageant. Le Président américain veut peser de tout son poids dans un processus de paix plus que jamais menacé.

Hamas, le Likoud et les autres extrémistes, trouveraient dans un éventuel échec du processus de paix, un terrain fertile pour reprendre le dessus. Seuls la paix des braves et le dialogue pourront empêcher l'escalade et confirmer la représentativité.



